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PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY

"Hongkong Telegraph"
for The South China Morning Post, Ltd.,
1 & 3, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

Dollar on Demand: 2s. 3/16d.
Lighting-up Times: 6.44 p.m.
High Water: 6.27 p.m.
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EXPLOSION HAVOC IN LONDON.

HUNDREDS RENDERED HOMELESS.

SIGHTSEERS FLEE TO SAFETY ON NEW UPHEAVAL.

PETRIFIED ROADWAVE.

London, Dec. 20.
The tremendous gas explosions which occurred early this morning under West Central London and tore up over half a mile of roadway near High Holborn, were of a terrific character, and did an enormous amount of damage.
London has never before experienced a mishap of such a nature, and there was immense excitement in the neighbourhood. The gas mains went up one after the other in rapid succession and the effects of the explosions were amazing.
Wonderfully enough, there was no loss of life, but at least seventeen persons were more or less seriously injured.
Solid concrete roadways and pavements were torn like so much paper, and heaved into great heaps, leaving gaping holes many yards wide and deep.

Petrified Waves on Roads.
In some places, the roads were like petrified waves and huge slabs of pavement were piled up against the houses and shops, many of which were badly damaged. Thousands of windows were broken.
The scene resembled more than anything else, the effect which might be wrought by a small isolated earthquake.
A grave danger arose from the escaping gas which swept from the mains over the whole district. People in the streets staggered away gasping.

Fume-Choked Houses.
Several families were nearly gassed and were only just able to totter out of their fume-choked houses, some of them requiring medical attention.
When the explosions occurred, dozens of pedestrians were thrown down. Shop windows were shattered and the nearby houses shook to such an extent that a number of sleepers were thrown out of their beds.

Manholes shot high into the air. One of these flying manholes rose at least seventy feet and then crashed through a roof and two floors without hurting anyone.
A taxi cab was hurled on its side as a huge crater appeared beneath it, the driver being thrown clear and badly hurt.

Terrible Fire Danger.

Another extreme danger which threatened large areas arose from the fact that many of the gas mains took fire, blazing away furiously for hours. Workers in gas-masks were rushed to the scene in lorries to deal with them and a general call was sent out to the various stations of the London Fire Brigade.
Householders in the affected area were asked by the Borough Surveyor not to use naked lights under any circumstances until told officially that it was safe to do so.
"No Smoking" warnings issued by the Police were hung on the wrecked lamp-posts.

House Blaze in New Explosion.

In the afternoon there was an entirely new explosion and a five-storey building in Bloomsbury was enveloped in flames. Huge crowds which had come from all over London to view the devastation caused by the morning explosions immediately made a hurried dash for safety.
It is stated that the damage done to roads, gas and water mains, and telegraph and telephone cables, will amount to about £150,000.—*British Wireless.*

Huge Damage.
It is estimated that the damage to roads alone is £50,000; while several hundred people have been rendered temporarily homeless.
(Continued on Page 14.)

WAR BREAKS OUT ON YANGTZE.

TROOPS NOW ON MARCH UP THE RIVER.

SHIPPING HELD UP.

Latest messages from Chungking show that the authorities there have declared a state of war to exist and have instituted a search station about ten miles below Chungking.
Up-bound shipping is being held up at Ichang until the position is more clear.
No further information is to hand regarding the A.P.C. installation at Chungking which was yesterday reported to be threatened by the sudden outbreak of hostilities.
There have been no further developments at Hankow in connection with the demands of the Wine Bureau.

MARSHAL OF ROYAL AIR FORCE.

SIR HUGH TRENCHARD RETIRING IN 1930.

London, Dec. 20.
The Air Ministry announces that Sir Hugh Trenchard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Marshal of the Royal Air Force, is resigning his post on January 1st, 1930.—*Reuter.*
[Sir Hugh Trenchard, who is 64 years of age, entered the Army at the age of 20 years and later saw service in South Africa. A pioneer in military aviation, he became commander of the Central Flying School in 1914 and did valuable work in the war. He received a baronetcy with a grant of £10,000 in 1919. He was appointed Air Marshal on January 1st, 1927.]

BRITISH CONTROL OF NICKEL MARKET.

INFLUENCE ON THE PEACE OF THE WORLD?

New York, Dec. 20.
The first step in the plan to obtain control of ninety per cent. of the world's supply of nickel has been taken by the directors of the International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, in approving of an exchange of stock with the Mond Nickel Company, Limited.
The Mond Nickel Company is controlled by Lord Melchett, formerly Sir Alfred Mond, and the move, forecast a month ago, is interpreted in America as a powerful preservative of peace since nickel is used in so many munitions of war.—*Reuter.*

FRENCH REVENUE RETURNS.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN LATEST FIGURES.

Paris, Dec. 20.
The revenue returns for November total Frs. 3,835,227,000, which is an increase of Frs. 325,974,000, on a Budget estimate last November of an increase of Frs. 341,262,000.

The returns for the eleven months are Frs. 39,326,007,000, an increase of Frs. 2,926,283,000, on an estimated increase of Frs. 2,382,368,000 for the same period in 1927.—*Havas.*

DUTCH TREATIES.

AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA AND TURKEY.

The Hague, Dec. 20.
The Second Chamber has adopted the Treaty of Commerce with Turkey.
The Foreign Minister, Heer van Blokland, has received a telegram from the Dutch Minister in China giving the text of the Tariff Treaty concluded with China on the basis of most-favoured-nation treatment for goods from Holland and the Dutch East Indies.—*Reuter.*

BRITISH SKIPPER COMPENSATED.

WEEKS IN PRISON IN VENEZUELA.

SHOCKING AFFAIR RECALLED BY VENEZUELAN GIFT.

A SATISFACTORY END.

London, Dec. 20.
The terrible experiences in a Venezuelan prison last year, of Captain Percy Brining, the master of the Leyland liner Ninian, following a mishap in Puerto Cabello harbour in which a boatman lost his life, are recalled by a report from Mr. W. E. O'Reilly, the British Minister at Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, stating that the Venezuelan Government have decided as an act of grace to pay Captain Twining a sum of \$500.
The affair occurred in April, 1927. The Ninian had steamed into Puerto Cabello and was making for the quay when a mooring boat containing three men was run down.
The Ninian carried out speedy rescue work, but apparently one of the men had been struck by the propeller and he died in hospital six days later.

In Prison Without Trial.

Captain Brining was placed under arrest, and pending trial which did not come on for over two months, was kept in a foul prison, though by the intervention of the British authorities some relief was given him in the latter part of his sojourn in gaol.
The result of British action was that Capt. Brining was released in July. He was charged with murder and acquitted, charged with frustrated murder (that is to say, he was alleged to have tried to kill the man and only failed because he was taken out of the water) and acquitted, and later discharged on account of manslaughter.

Shockingly Treated.

He had been detained for many weeks in prison and for the greater part of the time was shockingly treated.
He returned to England in September last year.

Afterwards, it will be recalled, it was decided by the British Government that a formal claim for compensation on Capt. Brining's behalf should be addressed to the Venezuelan Government by Mr. O'Reilly.

Mr. O'Reilly, however, was authorised to use his discretion regarding the date on which he should present the claim.

Action Postponed.

As he knew that the Venezuelan Government, which, from the moment the affair had originally been brought to its notice, had adopted a very helpful and friendly attitude, securing for Capt. Brining certain privileges during his imprisonment which were not strictly permissible by law, had been considering the circumstances of the whole case and examining the possibility of making compensation, he postponed acting on his instructions.

Sense of Justice.

The graceful and friendly action of the Venezuelan Government has, of course, now made any official steps by the British Minister unnecessary, and it is clear from Mr. O'Reilly's report that in spontaneously making this grant to Capt. Brining, the Venezuelan Government has been inspired purely by feelings of friendliness towards this country and by a sense of justice.

It is felt that the satisfactory conclusion to this unfortunate affair reflects great credit on the central authorities at Caracas.—*British Wireless.*

The transport Neuralia "is" en-counterling bad weather on the trip from Singapore and will not arrive here until 8 a.m. tomorrow.

SQUASH RACKETS TOURNEY.

BRITAIN BEAT AMERICA IN INTERNATIONAL.

FIVE MATCHES TO NIL.

London, Dec. 20.
Great Britain scored a clear-cut victory over the United States in an international five-rackets squash match at the Bath Club today, the British representatives winning all five matches.
W. D. MacPherson, who won the British championship on Wednesday by defeating Captain Cazale, the holder, gained a comfortable win over the American champion, but Reiss secured the most emphatic victory, conceding only three points.

The details were as follows:
W. D. MacPherson (Britain) beat H. N. Rawlings (America) 9-2, 9-7, 9-2.
P. Reiss (Britain) beat Keefe (America) 9-0, 9-3, 9-0.
Capt. V. Cazale (Britain) beat Wright (America) 9-4, 6-9, 9-0, 9-1.
Backhouse (Britain) beat Gilmore (United States) 10-8, 9-3, 9-9, 9-7.
Tomkinson (Britain) beat Powers (America) 9-3, 9-3, 9-3.—*Reuter.*

THE SOUTH AMERICAN DISPUTE.

BRITAIN WORKS WITH THE LEAGUE.

London, Dec. 20.
A question was asked in the House of Commons to-day as to whether the Foreign Secretary had entered into negotiations with the United States in order to secure, with the help of the League of Nations, a peaceful settlement of the dispute between the Governments of Bolivia and Paraguay.

Mr. G. Locker-Lampson, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replied in the negative. He said the British Government had not thought it right to take any action on this question, independent of the League of Nations.

The Council of the League had telegraphed to the two Governments congratulating them on having accepted the good offices of the Pan-American Congress, and thus finding a peaceable means of composing their differences.—*British Wireless.*

ARSON ATTEMPTED.

CHINESE FINDS STAIRCASE DOOR ON FIRE.

According to a report made by Yeung Cho-hae, of No. 118, Whitefield, Causeway Bay, arson was attempted at his house by some unknown person in the early hours of this morning.

Mr. Yeung, who, by the way, owns the house in which he lives, was awakened at 1.50 a.m. to find his house full of smoke.

On investigation, it was found that the staircase door was on fire and after he had promptly taken measures to put out the fire, he found pieces of Chinese newspaper, which had been soaked in kerosene, on the landing. Later, Mr. Yeung made a detailed report to the police.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS TO BE ACQUIRED.

New York, Dec. 20.
The Stock Exchange has arranged to purchase two adjoining buildings, which will give it possession of the entire square.

This is in accordance with a programme of expansion necessitated by the recent wave of speculative enthusiasm, which taxed the existing facilities to the utmost.—*Reuter's American Service.*

STILL FINE.

To-day's Observatory report states that the anti-cyclone has weakened and appears to be central over S.W. Korea. The monsoon will moderate along the S.E. coast of China and remain fresh to strong over the N. China Sea. The forecast till to-morrow N.E. winds, fresh; fine.

ATTACK ON KABUL ARRESTED.

RAIDERS ROUTED BY ARMY AND AIRMEN.

POPULATION ARMED TO ASSIST AMANULLAH.

POSITION IMPROVING.

New Delhi, Dec. 20.
A third aeroplane sent from the R.A.F. headquarters on the border flew over Kabul this morning, and a signal was received from the British Legation stating "All well. The position is improving."

The course of events in Afghanistan during the past week, says a message from Peshawar, is becoming clearer as further reports are received.

The rebellious tribesmen are very strong between Jelalabad and Kabul, but they are content for the moment to keep Jelalabad isolated.

Brigands' Activities.

Serious disorders occurred in the region to the north of Kabul, which has for a long time been subject to disturbances by armed brigands and robbers, some of whom arrived in the immediate vicinity of Kabul on Friday and Saturday last week the 14th and 15th.

Kabul itself has not been very disturbed, but it is revealed to-day that the robbers have not yet been dispersed by the Government forces.

It is impossible to say whether there was a band of the Shinwaris or robbers who attacked Kabul, but it is not thought that there is any serious prospect of further trouble of the same nature.

Rebels Routed.

Other provinces are quite quiet, and reliable information has been received stating that negotiations are still proceeding at Jelalabad.

A message from Kabul, via Moscow, received later says that the rebel attack on the city has been arrested as the result of the joint efforts of the troops, air force, and armed population.

Governmental reinforcements are now streaming in.—*Reuter.*

King Reassures Son.

Paris, Dec. 20.
King Amanullah is reported to have telegraphed to his eldest son who is studying at the Paris Lycee, declaring that the disturbances in Afghanistan are not of an important nature and that there is no danger to the regime or to the members of Amanullah's family.

The King counsels his son to continue his studies with an easy mind.

The Prince is informed that the outbreak is a sporadic one and has no genuine political background.

King Amanullah and his advisers have complete control. The Queen is not likely to be deterred from carrying out her ideals by the protests of a few fanatics and rebels, mainly Shinwaris.

A thousand loyal tribesmen have flocked to the capital ready to defend the Amanullahs.—*Reuter.*

Moscow, Dec. 20.
The radio station at Tashkent, after two days' interruption, has re-established communication with the government wireless station at Kabul. Reports received are very fragmentary but they have confirmed the fact that the rumour that the rebels had again seized Kabul is untrue.—*Reuter.*

A Talk With Insurgents.

London, Dec. 20.
A message displayed on white strips set out on the lawn of the British Legation at Kabul, stating, "Fly high, do not land, all well," was read by the Royal Air Force aeroplane which flew over the Legation.

The warning not to land was probably dictated by the fact that the rebels in the neighbourhood were mostly people who had been recently bombed by Afghan planes, and being unlikely to differentiate between one machine and another would be liable to open fire on any machine within range. Earlier information by telegram from the Legation stated that the insurgents had notified the British Minister they had no desire whatever to interfere with the Legation.

Sir F. Humphrys talked with

EMPRESS OF ASIA STOWAWAY.

GENUINE CASE OF BEING CARRIED OFF.

SHANGHAI COOLIE.

A grant from the Poor Box of \$5 was made by Mr. E. W. Hamilton at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning to a Shanghai Chinese charged with stowing away on the Empress of Asia.

Defendant, bursting into tears, informed the Court that he had taken some luggage on board for a European passenger and the vessel left the wharf before he could disembark.

His Worship (to Sergeant Riddell): Where's the evidence that he is a stowaway?

Sergeant Riddell: The ship's gone.

His Worship: Well I can't help that. It is no use charging a man before me and having no evidence.

Mr. J. Mackenzie, representing the Canadian Pacific Co., said the officers had stated that defendant did not go on board with any malicious intent.

His Worship: I can't take that. Sergeant Riddell asked for a remand until the Asia returned from Manila.

Mr. Mackenzie informed his Worship, through the Police, that defendant reported himself to the officers on the ship as soon as the vessel left the wharf, but he had no money to pay his passage.

His Worship: If you carried him off probably he didn't. If I got carried off I might have no money.

His Worship remarked that it seemed a genuine case and committed defendant to the House of Detention until he can be taken back to Shanghai by the Empress of Russia which leaves Hongkong on January 9. His Worship also granted the defendant \$5 from the Poor Box.

SEEKING TO SOLVE REPARATIONS.

AN EARLY PRONOUNCEMENT EXPECTED.

London, Dec. 20.

It is stated to-day that conversations are still proceeding between the interested Powers regarding the setting up of a Committee of Experts to investigate the possibility of a settlement of the reparations problem.

It is hoped that a pronouncement on the subject will be possible in the course of the next few days.—*British Wireless.*

LOANS FOR AMERICAN FARMERS.

SEQUEL TO HURRICANE DAMAGE.

Washington, Dec. 20.

The Senate has passed a Bill authorising a \$15,000,000 loan for the relief of cotton-growers and other farmers who suffered in the recent hurricane.

The Bill will now be submitted to the House of Representatives.

The loans will be limited to \$3,000 for any one farmer.—*Reuter's American Service.*

CHINESE RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT.

FIVE BRITISH CARS ORDERED.

London, Dec. 20.

A contract for five gear-driven, double-articulated railway cars, for the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, has been awarded to a British firm.

This is stated to herald the definite commencement of the rejuvenation of Chinese transport facilities.—*Reuter.*

THE KING'S STEADY PROGRESS.

LENGTHY BULLETIN BY FIVE DOCTORS.

SLIGHT ACCESS OF STRENGTH NOTICEABLE.

OPTIMISM PREVAILS.

London, Dec. 20.

Though anxiety has not been fully relieved, the prospects of His Majesty's complete recovery are much brighter to-day.

At 8.30 p.m. the following bulletin was issued from Buckingham Palace:

"A consultation has taken place in order to make a comprehensive survey of His Majesty's present progress and to discuss the lines along which treatment in the immediate future can best proceed.

"The condition of the right side of the chest has improved and there is evidence of more normal respiratory functions.

"Healing of the empyema, with its severe local infection, though satisfactory must of necessity be a lengthy process.

"The heart is slowly gathering power and while exhaustion remains profound, a slight access of general strength is noticeable.

"The future course of the illness must from its nature be slow and not without difficulty, but we are happy to state that the King's progress is now established on a firmer basis."
(Signed) Stanley Hewett.
Hugh Bigby.
Farquhar Buzzard.
Humphry Rolleston.
Dawson of Penn.

Reuter is reliably informed that the King is nearing, but has not yet reached, a state where complete confidence can be felt.

Great Weakness.

His Majesty's condition is still one of great weakness, but the exhaustion mentioned in the afternoon bulletin is not now so pronounced as it has been in the last few days, and while the exhaustion continues, it is much less acute.

The King's doctors' discussions as to the future line of treatment, which began early in the afternoon, continued until this evening. Light Ray Therapy treatment will be continued.

The doctors are now much more optimistic regarding the ultimate outcome of the struggle and the atmosphere at the Palace to-night is much more hopeful.

Setback May Occur.

If the King continues to make uninterrupted progress during the next few days, a different phase of the illness will definitely have been reached. Until this step forward has been taken, however, a setback may still occur. The continued improvement reported during the last three days gives reason to hope that this is unlikely.

It was announced at Buckingham Palace soon after eight o'clock that as two bulletins have already been issued to-day, no further bulletin will be issued this evening. It is, however, officially stated that the King's condition continues satisfactory.

No Night Bulletin.

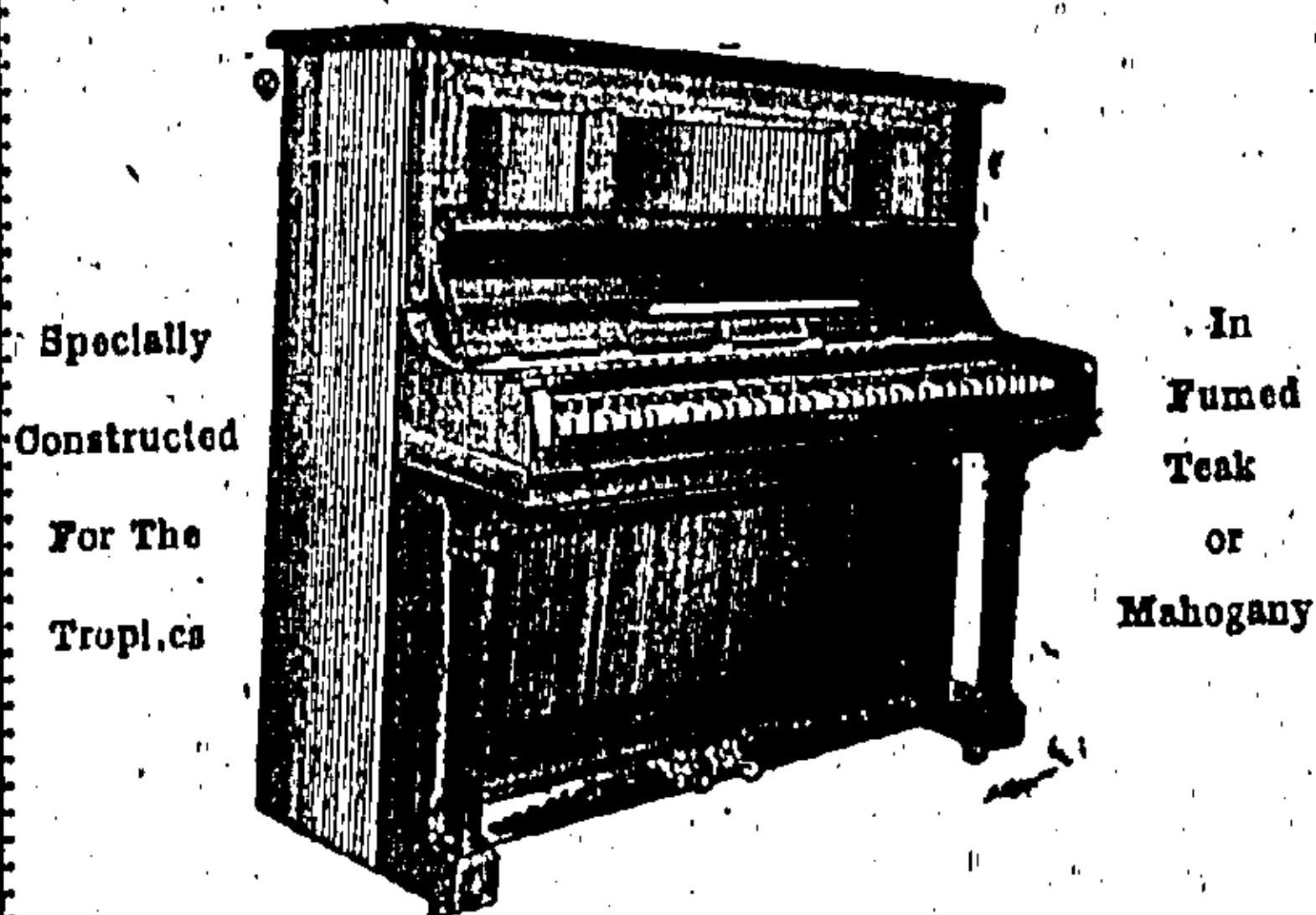
This is the first day since the King was taken ill that no night bulletin has been issued and the fact can be read as a good sign.

After Drs. Hewett and Woods had called at the Palace and administered further ray therapy treatment, Sir Stanley Hewett was joined in consultation by Lord Dawson, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Sir Farquhar Buzzard and Sir Hugh Bigby. The five doctors were together for about ninety minutes.

All left before nine o'clock with the exception of Sir Stanley Hewett.—*Reuter and British Wireless.*

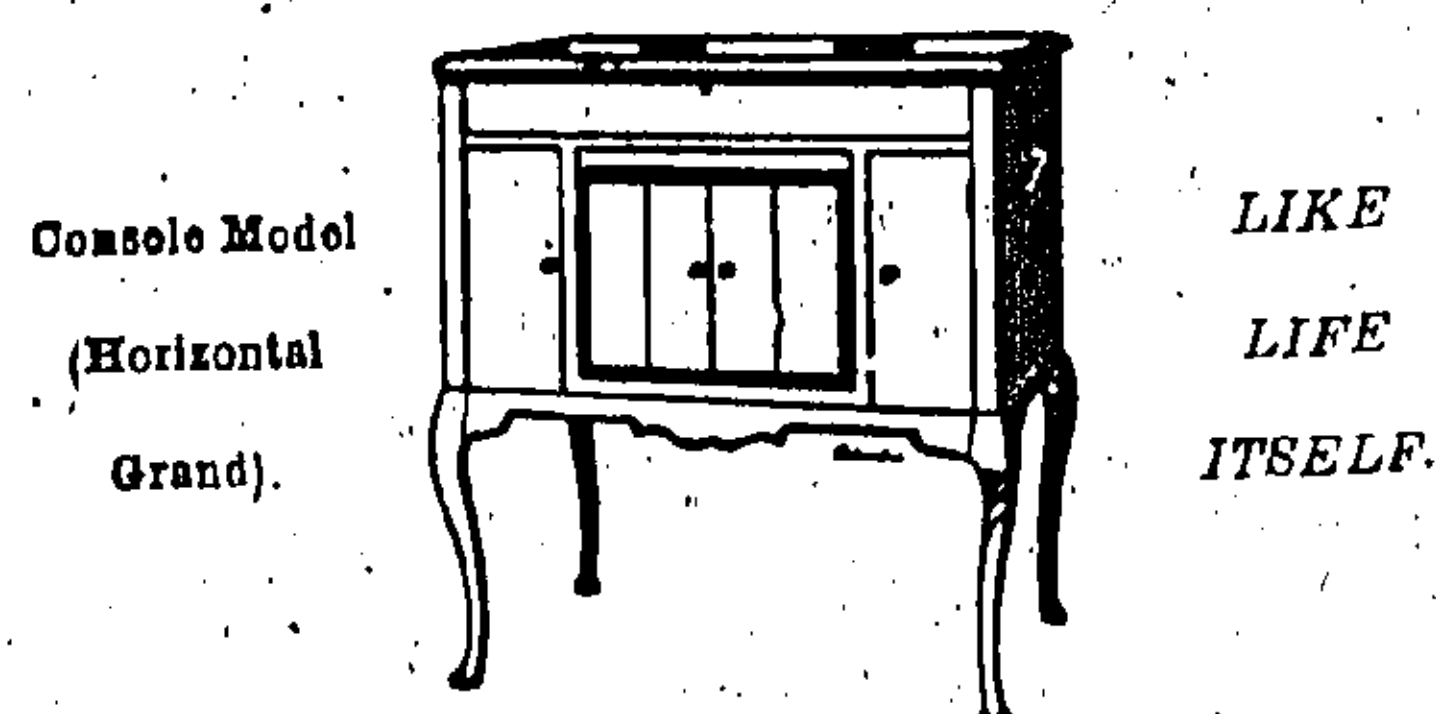
GIFTS THAT WILL PLEASE EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY THIS XMAS.

A NEW PIANO



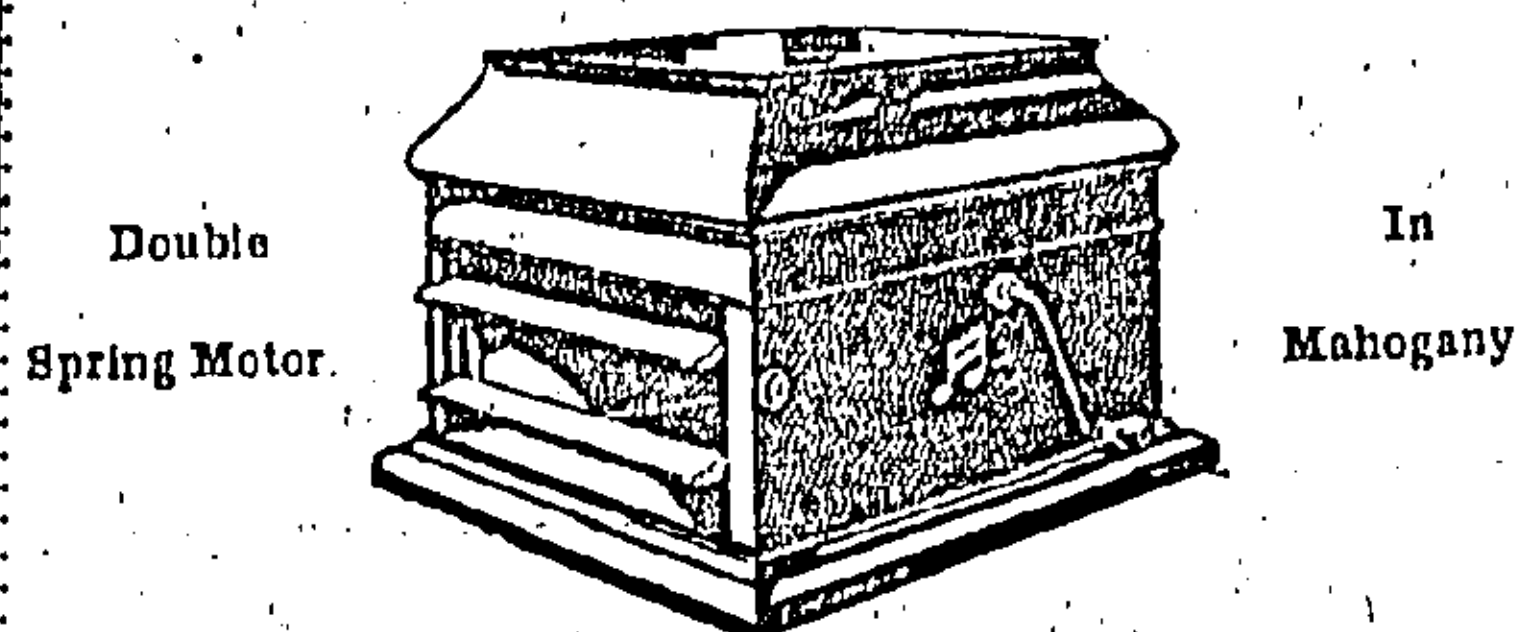
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IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO DEMONSTRATE.

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CHINESE GUNBOAT LAUNCHED.

CEREMONY AT BAILEY'S BY
MADAME LI CHAI-SUM.

ANTI-PIRACY WORK.

There was an interesting ceremony at the shipyard of Messrs. W. S. Bailey and Co., Ltd., yesterday, when a new gunboat built to the order of the Canton Government was launched by Madame Li Chai-sum, marking the completion of the third vessel built for Canton in recent months. In October two smaller gunboats, the Chung Yuen and the Chung Kai, were launched, the vessel to take the sea yesterday being the Kien Yu, a larger ship intended for anti-piracy work in the Canton Delta.

Those present included Madame Li Chai-sum, General Li (Chief A. D. C. to Marshal Li), Admiral Chan Chak, Capt. K. Y. Wu (Constructor in Chief, Chinese Navy) and Mrs. Wu, Capt. Chow Chien-lan (Commander of the Chung Shan), Capt. H. Y. Tu (Director of the Kwongnam Dock), Engineer Commander Y. C. Feng, Commander Li (captain of the new vessel), Commander Yiu Ping-chung (Paymaster, Canton Navy), Mr. Li Yau-tsun (representing the Chinese Chamber of Commerce), Mr. R. Sutherland, Commander and Mrs. Binney, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bailey, Mr. C. F. Mendham, Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Kotewall, Mr. A. A. Dand, Mr. W. Borrowman, Mr. and Mrs. C. Witchell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fraser, Mrs. A. Chapman, Mr. A. E. Brown, Mr. H. Hyndman, Miss Hyndman and Miss Pereira, together with a large number of Chinese Naval officers.

A special platform had been constructed at the head of the ways. Dominating this were the Nationalist flag, a portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and a copy of his will. The gathering stood in front of the portrait, bowing three times, the will being read before Madame Li Chai-sum performed the launching ceremony, in usual manner by breaking a bottle of champagne over the ship's bows.

The Kien Yu went neatly down the ways, the launching being a perfect one. It was accompanied by a fusillade of crackers and cheers for "good jobs."

The Reception.

Refreshments were provided in the Company's offices where Mr. W. S. Bailey said:

Madame Li, General Li, Admiral Chan Chak, ladies and gentlemen—I have to thank you for your kind attendance here to-day and Madame Li for so gracefully launching the latest addition "Kien Yu" to the Chinese Navy, and I have much pleasure in asking Madame Li's acceptance of this small memento of the occasion.

Mr. Bailey then presented a handsome bracelet to Madame Li. Continuing he said, "This is the third gunboat we have lately launched for the Chinese Navy, and like the two previous vessels she is designed by your Constructor in Chief, Capt. K. Y. Wu, who is to be congratulated upon the success of his plans."

I wish to thank Admiral Chan Chak, Capt. Wu and staff for their assistance in carrying out this work which, with their able co-operation, and that of my own staff and workmen has gone on without the slightest hitch. This vessel must prove an additional warden and pledge of the peace and prosperity of the Canton Delta and improve trade between Canton and Hongkong, and I ask you to now join me in drinking success to the "Kien Yu."

General Li said—By order of Marshal Li I have to-day the honour of representing the Canton Government at the launching of our patrol boat Kien Yu which has been so successfully performed by Madame Li. You may perhaps wonder why these vessels are being built but you may be sure that this is a sign of reconstruction

work by our Government. (Applause). Since the revolution practically no construction work has been done, especially in the Navy. This is the first step in our programme.

This ship is named Kien Yu after one of our revolutionary patriots who gave their lives for the change to Republican Government during the last dynasty. We wish to commemorate our patriots' sacrifices without which we could never have secured Republican Government, and without Republican Government we could not carry out construction work. Now it is time for us to reconstruct.

Our thanks are due to Messrs. W. S. Bailey and Co. for taking up for us the construction of three anti-piracy vessels with which we hope conditions in Canton Delta will be made secure for trade, and both Canton and Hongkong commerce enjoy the peace of the river.

Ladies and gentlemen let us drink to the health of increased commerce between Canton and Hongkong and to the success of Messrs. W. S. Bailey and Co. The toast was duly honoured.

An Important Event.

Admiral Chan Chak said the occasion was the second recently where he had had the pleasure of being present at the launching of a gunboat for the Chinese Navy, built by Messrs. W. S. Bailey and Co., Ltd. They had witnessed an important event in the launching of the new ship which just before had so successfully taken to the water. Speaking on behalf of the Chinese Navy he wished to acknowledge his admiration for the excellent workmanship of the Company in producing the new gunboat which was a fine piece of work.

Admiral Chan Chak also referred to the hospitality which had been so generously accorded them and proposed a vote of thanks to the Company on behalf of the Chinese Navy.

Replying, Mr. Bailey thanked Admiral Chan Chak for the references to himself and his firm. He had been very impressed by the earnest manner in which the representatives of Canton had taken part in the ceremony. He thought it inspired faith in the future and said he was convinced that they could now look forward to an era of good Government in China, and an era of peace, prosperity and security, and close co-operation between Great Britain and China.

The Re-Birth of China.

Capt. Chu said that he spoke as a classmate of Capt. Wu and also as a shipbuilder. The new gunboat, built by Messrs. Bailey and Co. to the design of Capt. Wu was a good example to Chinese shipyards. China was now coming into her own and would show the world that she was a power as a country but she would need the help and co-operation of Great Britain.

China realised what value Great Britain could be to her and therefore work had been given to Britain. China was in great need of a Navy to protect her commerce and his countrymen were going to take an example from England, the greatest sea power.

Britain produced the greatest number of engineers and shipbuilders and they were to be found all over the world. In her policy of reconstruction it was most important that China should plan for the training of her own workers. They could not send all their students abroad to study but they could give their workmen the inspiration of the work of British shipyards in Hongkong and the Chinese Empire.

Messrs. Bailey and Co. were giving considerable help to the Chinese Government, indirectly, by educating workers at their yard. Once the men had received preliminary training they would be able to carry it to all parts of the country.

The Kien Yu was the third ship ordered from the Company and he hoped that other vessels would be ordered in due course. China was

(Continued on Page 13.)



THE SHOP for GIFTS

There is Still A Wonderful Display
of

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

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for

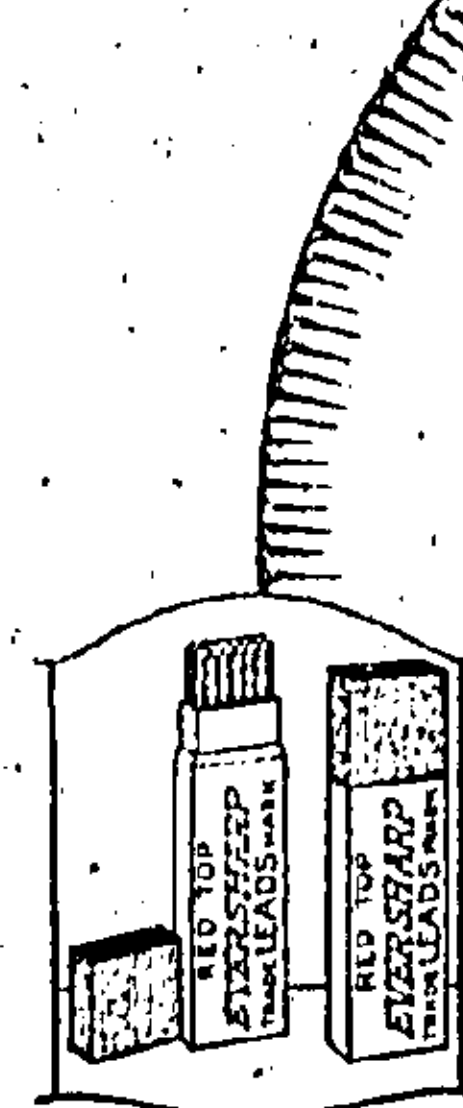
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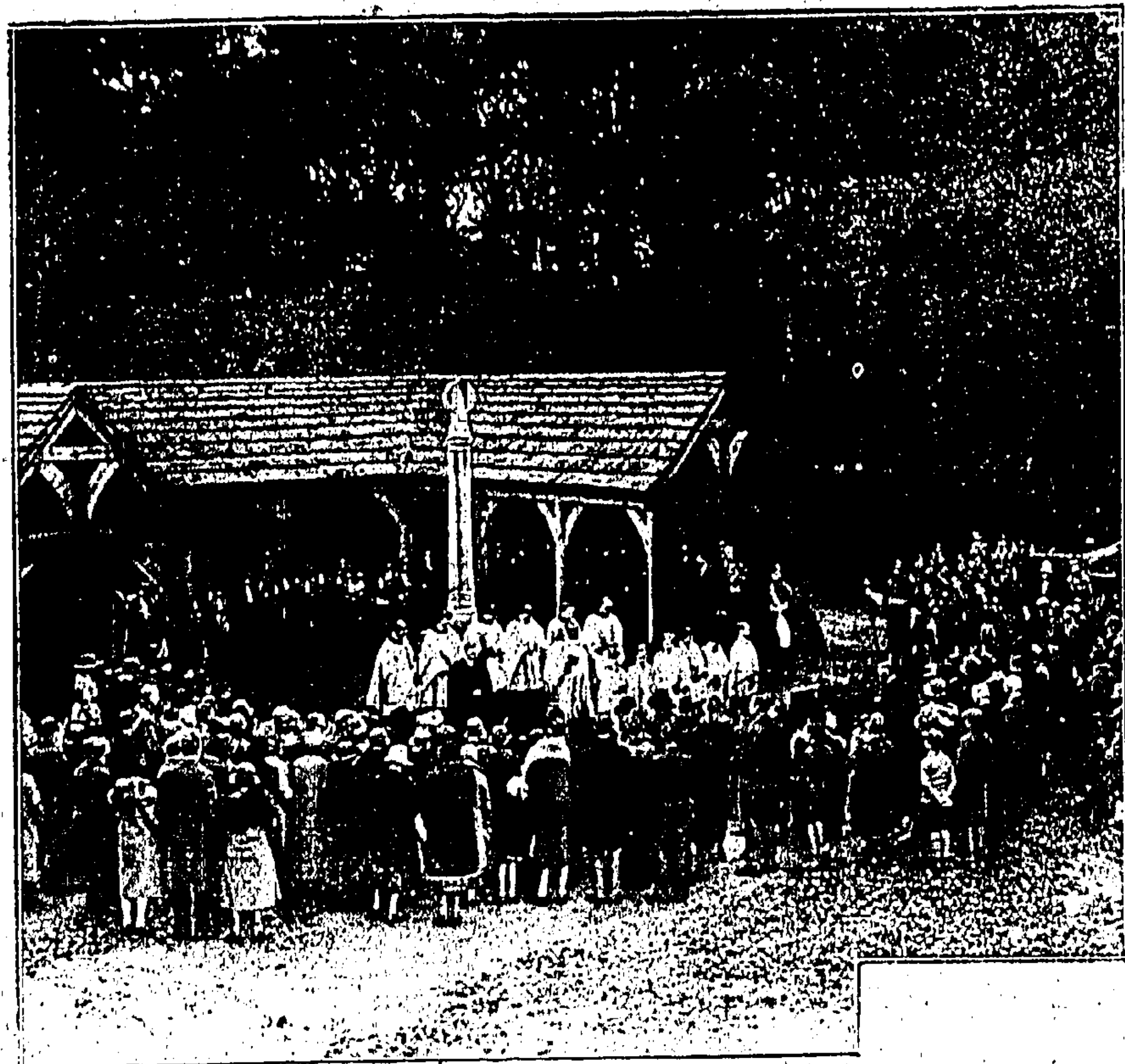
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Emulsion**
The protector of life

SALESMAN SAM

Duty Number One

By Small





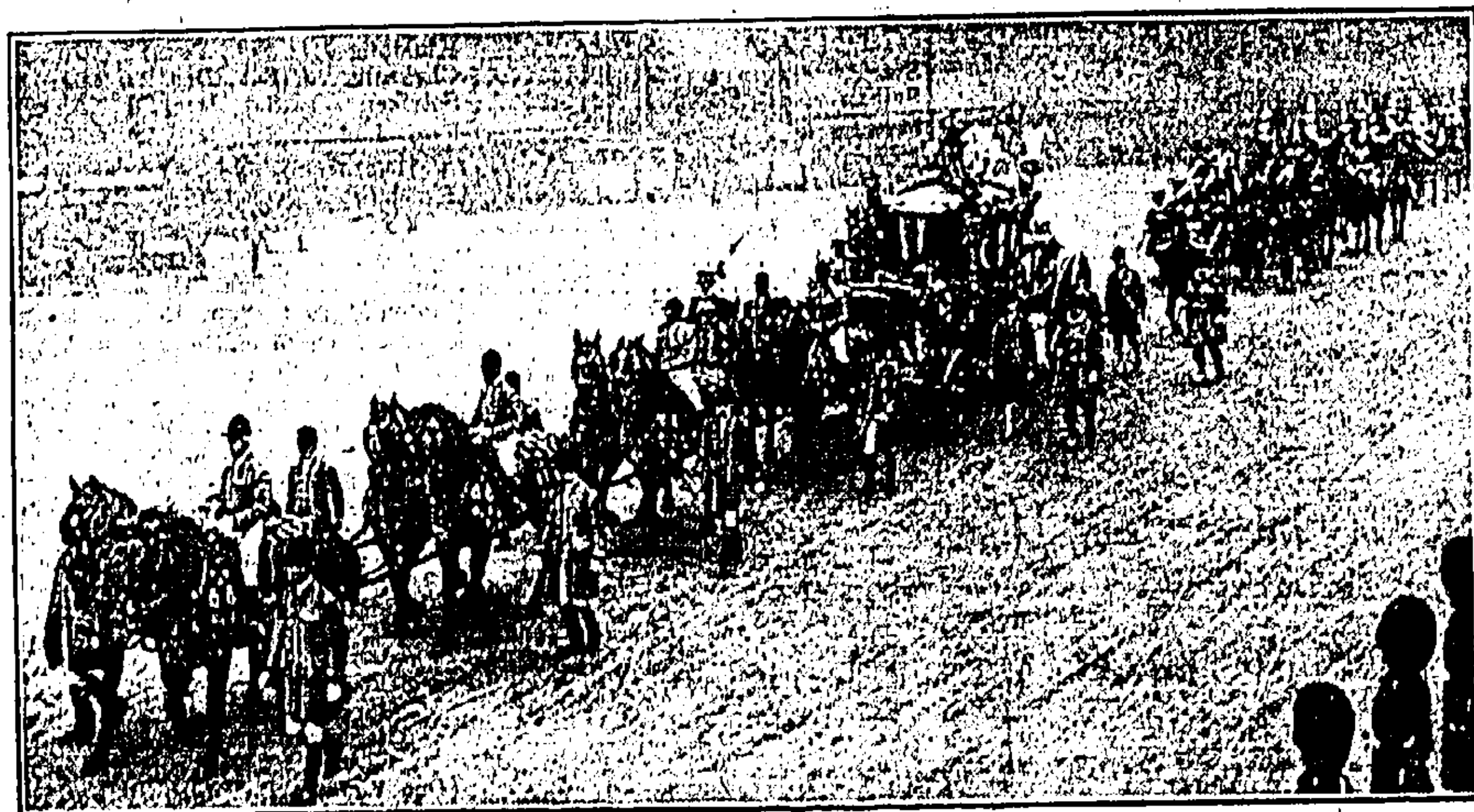
Throughout the country, in town, village, and hamlet, special services were held in memory of the fallen, and, in addition to ceremonies inside the churches, Armistice Day commemorations were held at the local War memorials in many places. Our picture shows the service at the War memorial at the Hampshire village of Blackmore, near Solborne. (Times copyright).



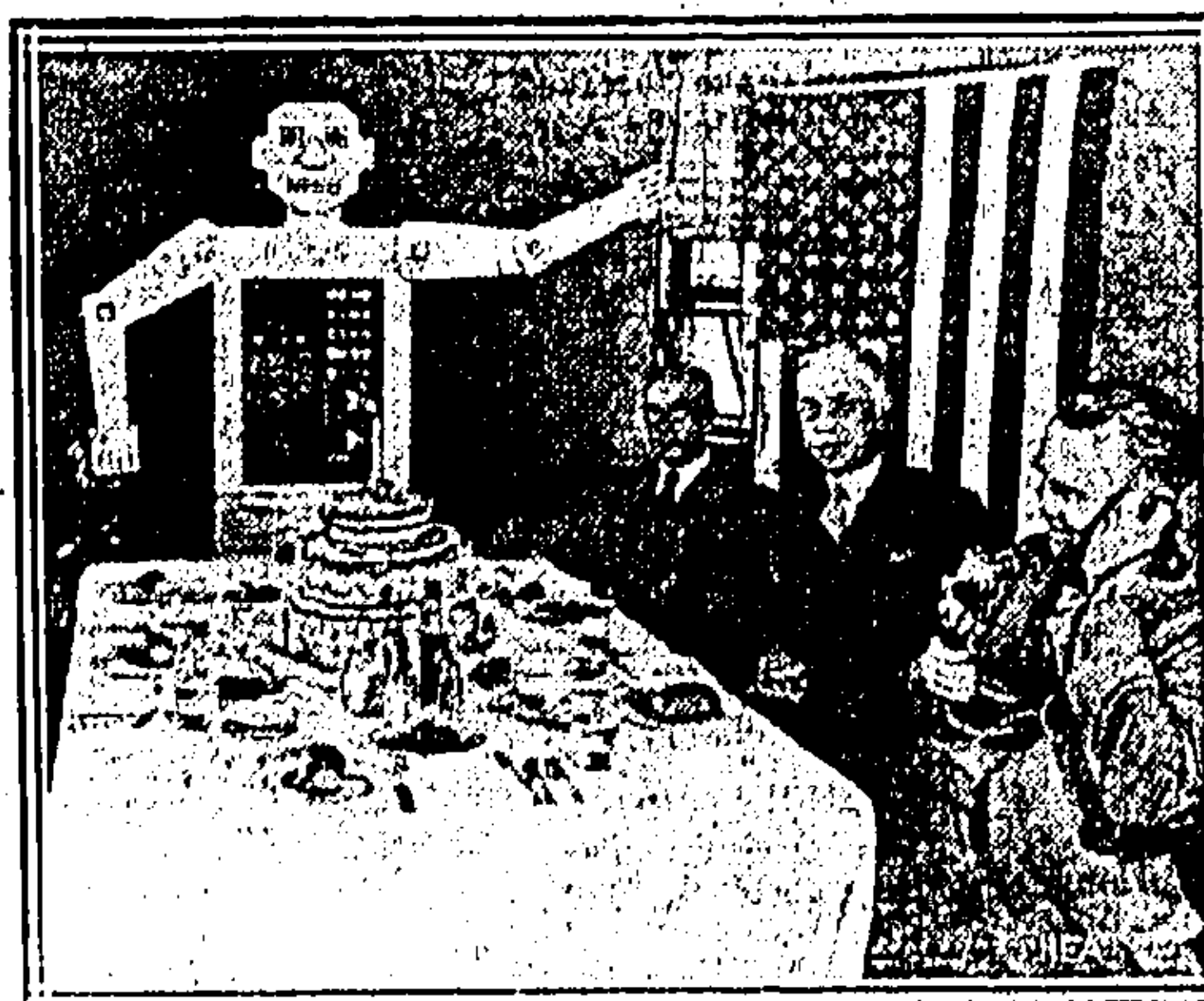
Our picture shows the new Lord Mayor of London, Sir Kynaston Studd (Centre), and the retiring Lord Mayor, Sir Charles Batho (right) outside the Law Courts. (Times copyright).



Above is shown the arrival in Hollywood of Maurice Chevallier, famous French actor who is to make a singing-talking picture. Chevallier is shown, with his wife, the former Yvonne Valle, dancer, and Adolphe Menjou.



The King, accompanied by the Queen, drove in State to Westminster to open the last Session of the present parliament. Our photograph shows the procession leaving the House of Lords after the ceremony. Fog marred the brilliance of the spectacle. (Times copyright).



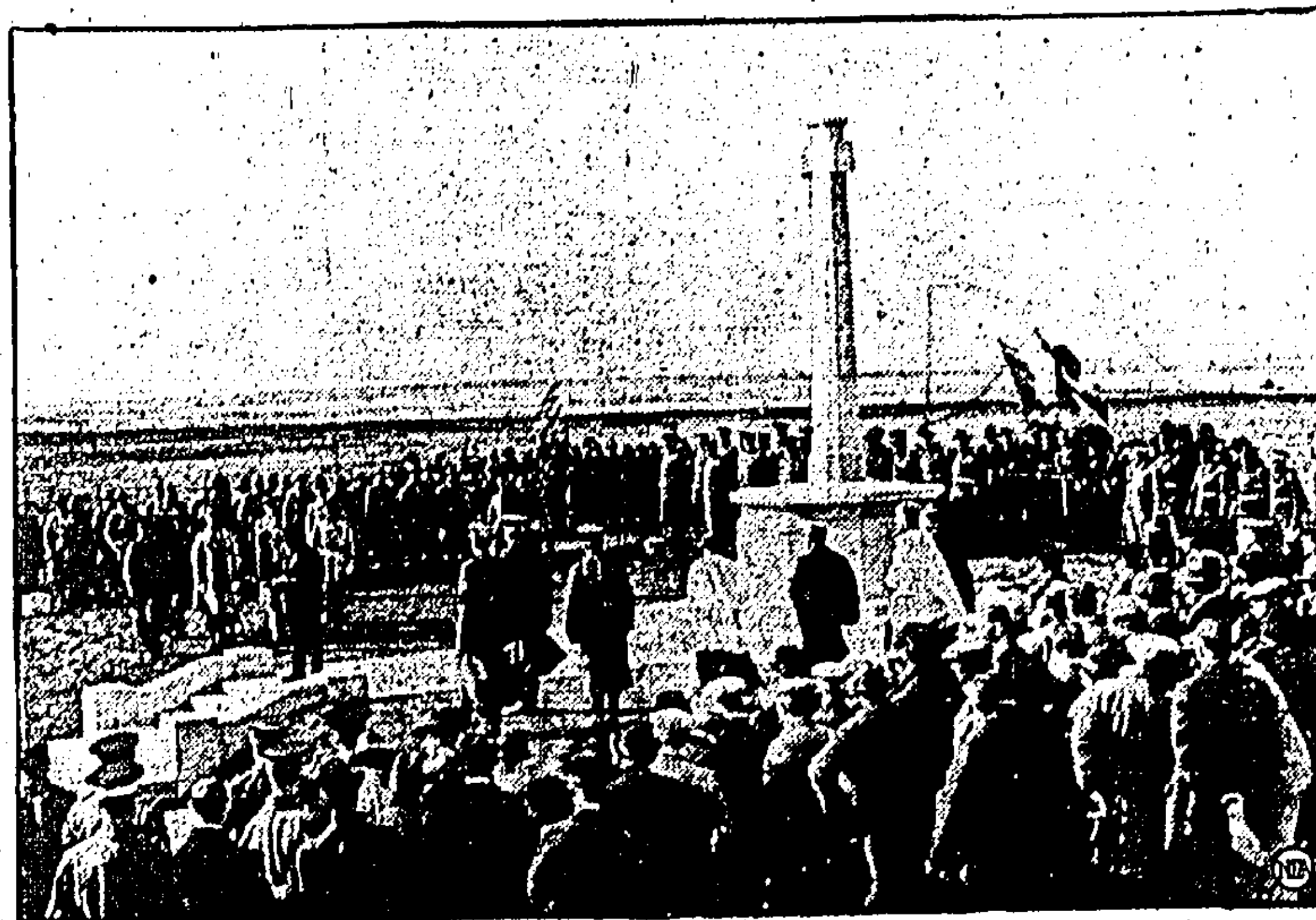
Picture taken when Mr. Televox was entertained at his first birthday party at the Westinghouse plant, Pittsburgh, recently. The inventor, Mr. R. J. Wensley is at the extreme right.



Our picture shows leading Shanghai huntmen, Messrs. N. L. Sparks (the Master), T. G. Drakoford (Steward), C. Tranchard Davis and M. O. Springfield (Master Shanghai Hounds), discussing a few points regarding the trail laid at the opening hunt of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club.



Three generations in Shanghai Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Little, centre pair, are settling in New Zealand after many years in the Far East.



More than 7000 Englishmen gave their lives at Les Boeufs during one tragic month of 1916. This monument, erected by the Guards division at Les Boeufs, France, near Albert on the Somme, commemorates their sacrifice. Major General Sir Geoffrey Fielding officiated at the unveiling.



In the football match between Chinan and Kwanghwa universities the girls of the former college formed a "choir" squad in support of their team. This is the first time that such a thing has been done in China.

He'll appreciate
a **USEFUL** Gift
most of all!



You will be buying "him" a present this year, of course. You always do. But be sure and buy him something useful—he doesn't want curios. It is not the value of the gift that counts so much as the judgment in selecting it. Good judgment will lead you to Mackintosh's where selection is easy among the large array of men's presents—all good, all stylish, all useful.

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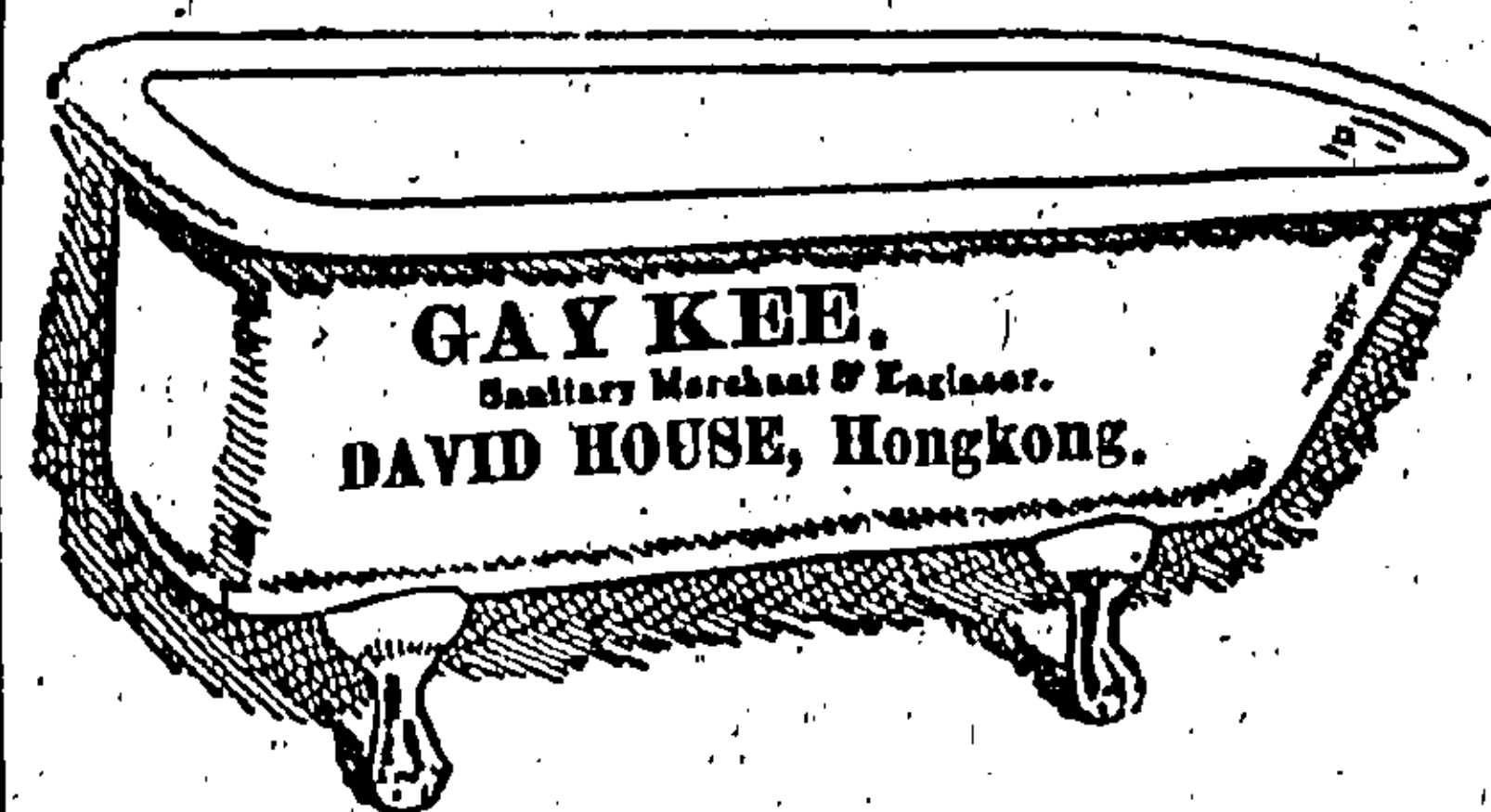
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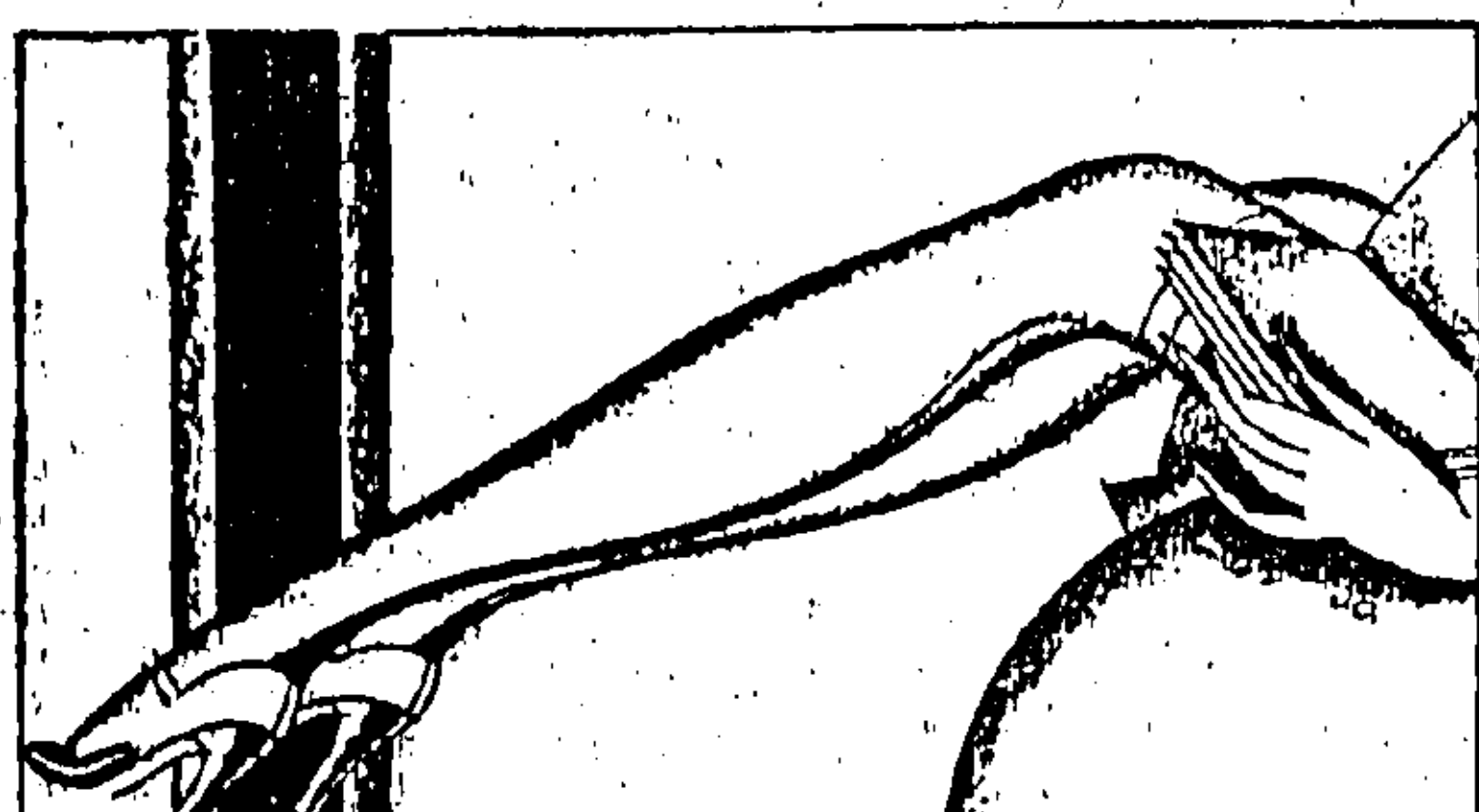
"JASON"
UNDERWEAR FOR MEN.
WHEN A NAME
MEANS SOMETHING.

It is folly to associate a name with Ordinary Underwear and expect the name to sell it. The name does not "make" the underwear, it's the Underwear that "makes" the name. "JASON" All Wool Underwear is known all over the world for its excellence of quality at minimum cost.

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NEW STOCKS OF ALL
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Kayser Slipper Heel*
HOSIERY

A hose that is sheer enough for beauty and heavy enough to withstand hard wear—is this service sheer weight "Slipper Heel" Hosiery. For beauty of texture it has no rival. Then, the exclusive Kayser feature, "Slipper Heel" effects a slender, graceful ankle line. In every smart shade for every occasion.

"At all leading dealers."

Kayser

WOMAN'S WORLD

FOR OUR LADY READERS.

Two Interesting Features.



The deep net yoke and the transparent net hem are interesting features of this pretty evening gown in apricot coloured tulle. The net is in the same shade as the silk.

Fur Embroidery.

LATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF FURNIER'S ART.

Ermine embroideries in a "free-hand" design were worked on a lovely evening coat of silver tissue shown recently at a London dress show. Fur embroidery is the latest achievement of the furrier's art and a very new fashion.

Moleskin was embroidered on to a coat of green cloth which had a moleskin collar tied with long ends of moleskin.

A yellow cloth coat, embroidered with stitching, giving a raised effect, was trimmed on the cuffs and at the hem with flying foxing. It was finished at the neck with a scarf of the material bordered with fur.

Pale-rose-coloured cloth, also embroidered with stitching, fashioned a pretty coat for afternoon wear trimmed with mink.

A deeper pink embroidered coat, had a large collar of moleskin and cuffs of moleskin reaching to the elbow; there were long ends of the moleskin to tie at the collar. Embroidered cloth coats are foretold as the prevailing fashion for the Spring.

Parachute Motif!



A little French trotteur suit advances a most modern interpretation of the modish red, white and blue colour scheme by using a new printed silk which has tiny parachutes for its design. The blue jacket is lined with the print, too. This print is one of the new "impressions decorative" designed by famous French artists, which promise great vogue next spring.

On Wearing Furs.

[By a Lady in Paris.]

The wearing of fur is such a widely followed fashion that it easily loses all distinction unless some fine gesture or pose in the wearing of it distinguishes one fur coat or one fur-trimmed coat from another.

There are women who can wear ermine, chinchilla, sable, the richest and rarest of furs, and who never succeed in giving to their coats and wraps and collars the very least distinction. There are others who can only boast a bit of rabbit or imitation broadtail and who manage to look luxurious in everything they put on.

So much depends on the way in which clothes are worn.

The shawl collar carried to a point at the back of the neck, very full and soft all round the shoulders, is the collar of the season. You see them in dozens wherever well-dressed women congregate.

Black coats with light fox collars, or collars of grey squirrel or lynx, are worn over bright or light, or black dresses in velvet, satin, moire, and cloth. On the head is put a queer little light-fitting hat.

To repeat this is but to tell the truth of what women are wearing day by day.

The refrain sounds monotonous, but it is not so to the eye, and chiefly because the way women wear that fur collar gives such distinction to the coat and hat that each one is as unlike the other as their respective wearers.

Touch of Arrogance.

One woman, slender and tall, gathers her coat round her with a touch of arrogance, and the collar curls round her head and shoulders like a furry little animal. Round her sleeves go deep cuffs, from which emerge her little hands, the wrists heavily fettered with jewels.

The hem of the coat, if fur-trimmed, adds to the sumptuous-

ness of the picture, and out of all the fur rises her little head wearing a hat which fits her as her glove fits her hand, or even more closely. It may be black or in colour, it may have a coloured wing as trimming, or no trimming but a jewelled pin.

One fair creature dressed in black and scarlet had a small black cap with a couple of curved brown quills edged with black and scarlet. It is these bold little notes of colour which give a smile to the darkest ensemble, and lift it to gaiety.

Then there is the fur coat which so many people say is not as fashionable as it was. But wait until the snow and frost appear and fur coats will come back again.

As it is there are plenty of moleskin coats, and coats of broadtail, and of shaved lamb in that lovely golden shade which Paris loves so much. They are cut straight and are gathered about the figure to make them crooked again.

Must Have It Just So.

That is just where the Parisienne is so entertaining about fashion. She gets a dozen people round her in the shop to measure her skirt hem, or the hem of her coat, because it is not straight, and the whole thing does not hang right, and when she has made them put it "just so," she superbly gathers those skirts around her in all the crooked lines she pleases and thinks suit her and suits away leaving them breathless with admiration.

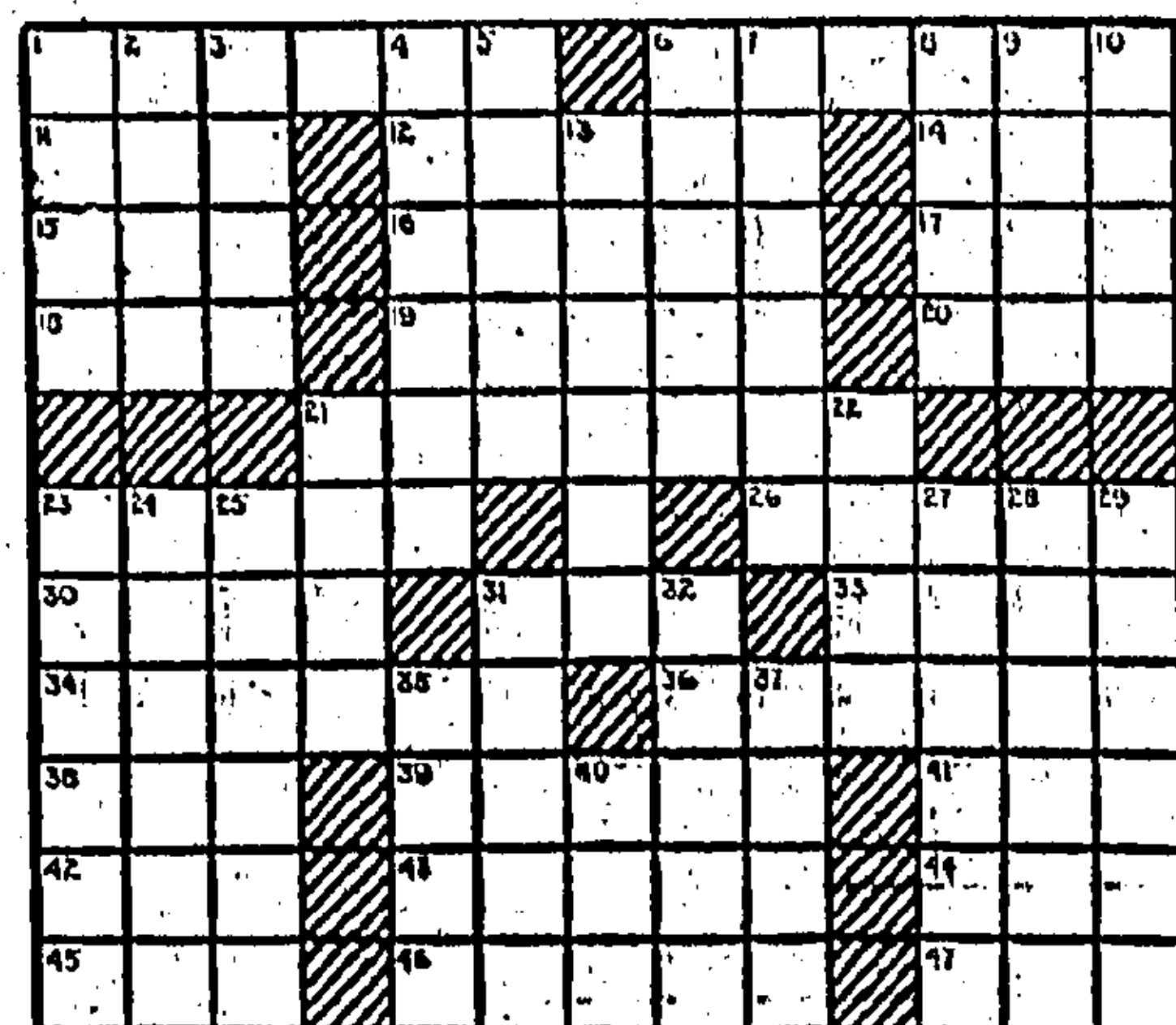
It is still true that a well-dressed woman who knows how to carry her clothes can do what she likes with the Parisians.

They revel in her and admit that she has the right to look as luxurious and be as difficult to please as she likes.

Indeed, a good dressmaker, like a good cook, is inclined to despise a woman who is too easily pleased.

"To please the dressmaker, a woman must be something of a coquette, and to please a cook, something of a gourmet."

OUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Horizontal

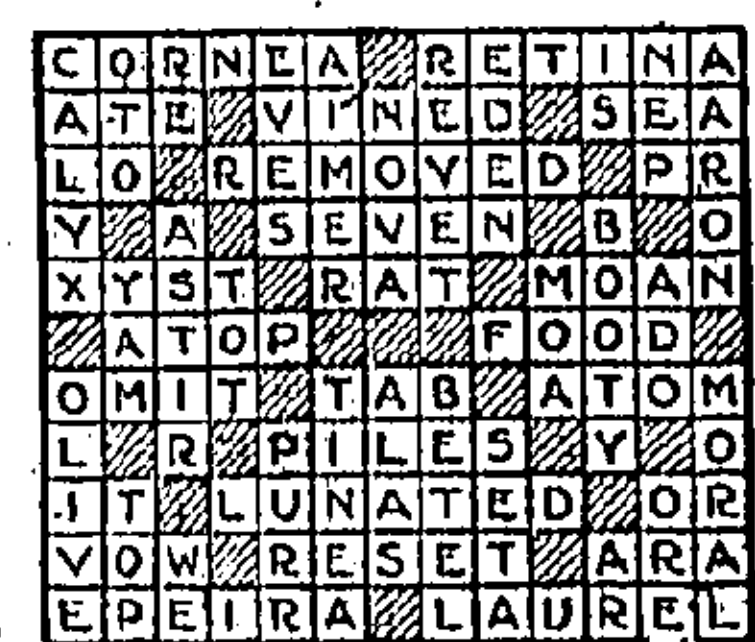
- 1 An invasion.
- 6 Algebric.
- 11 Digit of the foot.
- 12 Hut.
- 14 Hall.
- 15 Night preceding a holiday.
- 16 Part of the soft palate.
- 17 Sesame.
- 18 Insane.
- 19 Coal digger.
- 20 Measure of clothing.
- 21 Withdraws.
- 23 Title of the lowest grade.
- 26 Possessing flavour.
- 28 Pertaining to grandparents.
- 31 Conjunction.
- 32 Smooth.
- 34 Divides.
- 36 Aggregation of property left at death.
- 38 Collection of facts.
- 39 Fruit of the genus Malus.
- 41 To drink dog fashion.
- 42 Ear of pitcher.
- 43 To thread.
- 44 To piece out.
- 45 Tiny golf device.
- 46 To come in.
- 47 Lair of beast.

Vertical

- 1 Paragraph in a newspaper.
- 2 A new star.
- 3 Long grass.
- 4 Shrewdness.

- 5 Spar used on board ships, as a crane.
- 6 Vessel carrying oil.
- 7 Traps.
- 8 To value.
- 9 Bad.
- 10 To shriek.
- 13 An enlargement of the first joint of the great toe.
- 21 Part in a drama.
- 22 To season.
- 23 Dark-coloured volcanic rock.
- 24 Way.
- 25 To devastate.
- 27 Chimed.
- 28 A narrowing or contraction.
- 29 To increase in degree.
- 31 Tremulous.
- 32 To dig laboriously.
- 36 Uncommon.
- 37 Prophet.
- 40 House canary.

Yesterday's Solution.



DAIRY FARM NEWS

SEASONABLE SPECIALTIES

FOR

SATURDAY

BLACK PUDDING

60 cents per lb.

HAGGIS (Real Mackay)

60 cents per lb.

Don't miss this Treat

The Dairy Farm, Ice & Cold Storage Co., Ltd.

21 YEARS AGO.

SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE "TELEGRAPH" FILES.

The following items are from the Hongkong Telegraph for the week ended December 20th, 1907.

The rate of the dollar on demand was 1s. 9½d.

Chinese organisations in Canton and elsewhere proposed a boycott

of British steamers owing to the presence of a British naval flotilla on the West River.

The death occurred in Macao of Mr. Lu Kau, a well-known Chinese millionaire.

The tow-boat Hapag, built at Kowloon Docks to the order of the Hamburg-America Line, underwent her trial run.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe was appointed Inspector of Schools.

SPECIAL XMAS GIFTS

MANICURE & HAIR DRESSING SETS

AT
very reasonable prices.

THE COLONIAL DISPENSARY.

13, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Tel. G. 1877.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

This Suspense Is Awful

By Blosser



Choose well,
your choice is brief,
but endless!
Carlyle.

FOR CHRISTMAS.

What shall I give HER or HIM?

GO TO

WATSON'S

there in all departments you will find articles and goods in great variety that will make

USFFUL

ELEGANT and

DESIRABLE

GIFTS

that will please the giver and delight the recipient.

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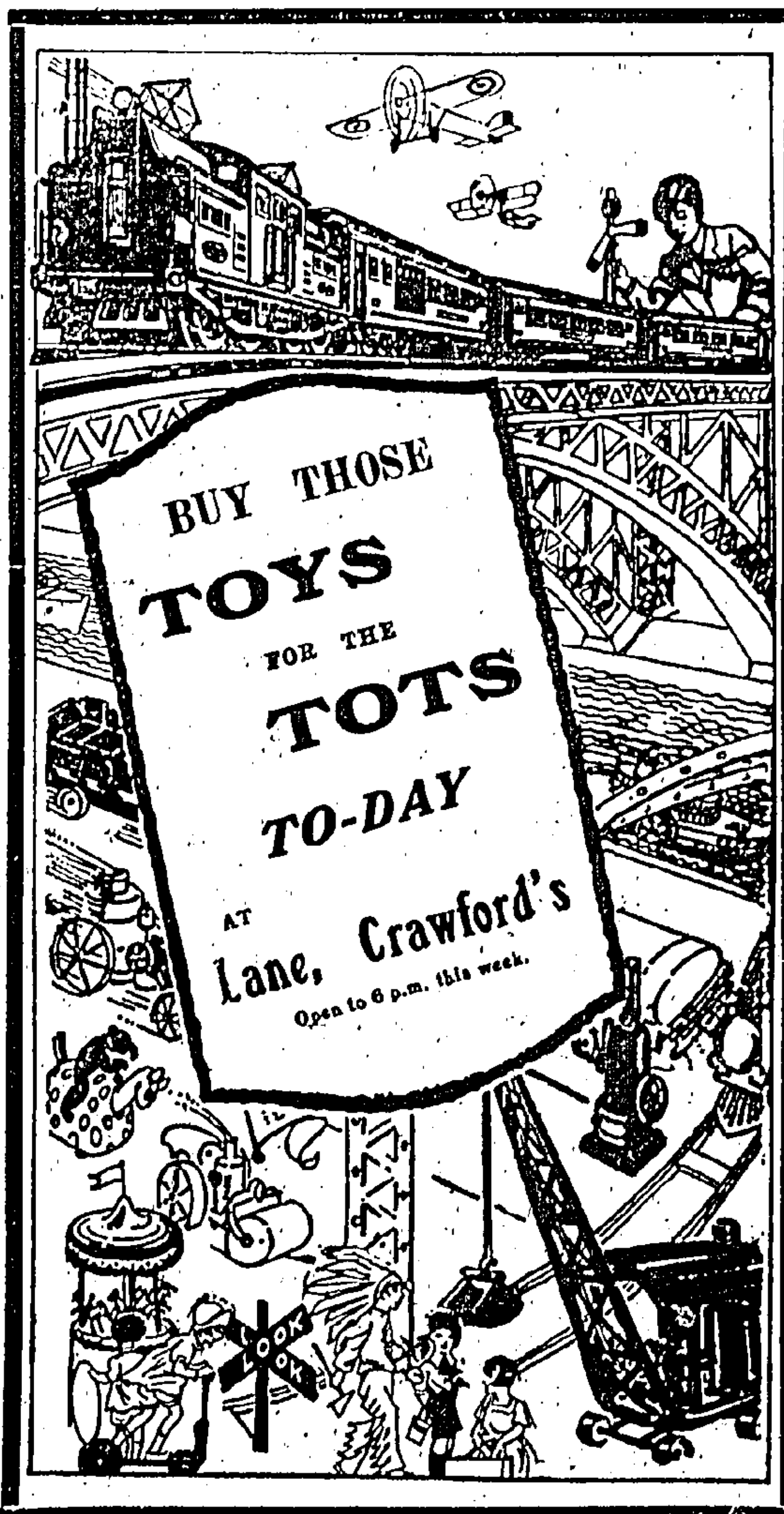


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FOR DECEMBER

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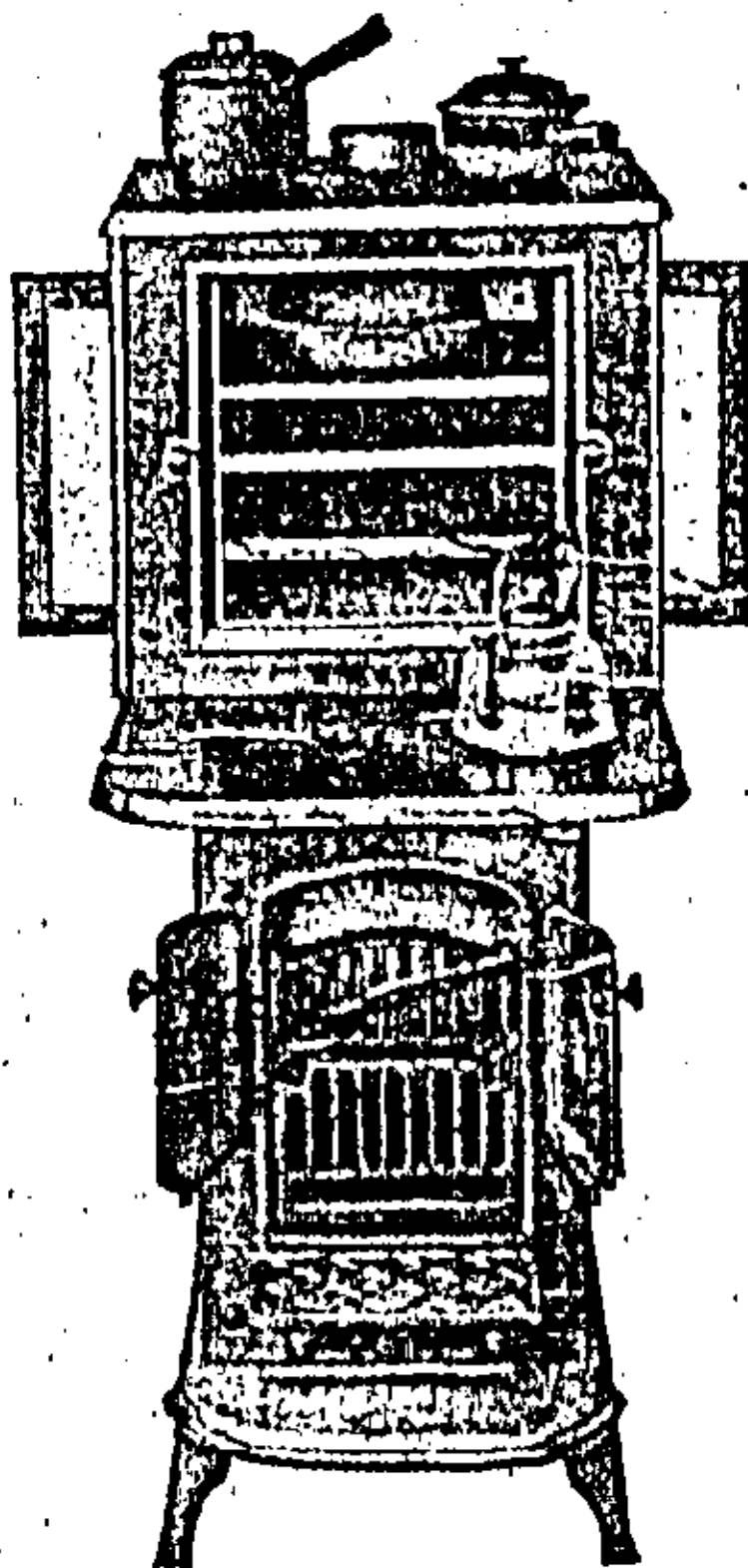
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GIVES ALL THE
SERVICE YOU REQUIRE
FROM ONE FIRE.
COOKING, HOT WATER
AND DRYING ROOM.



Sole Agents:-

DODWELL & Co., Ltd.

DEATH.

BATEMAN.—November, 1928,
Elizabeth Annie Bateman,
Formerly Head Mistress,
Bellis Public School.

The

Hongkong Telegraph.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 1928.

VEHICULAR FERRY:

Considerable public interest will no doubt have been aroused in the publication of the Government's report on the question of the provision of a vehicular ferry service, the main features of which we published yesterday, even though the document makes no specific recommendations for dealing with the problem upon which so much time and labour have already been spent. It is admitted in the very first sentence of the report that "a vehicular ferry appears to be the most practical assistance to facilitate vehicular communication between Hongkong and Kowloon," and then the report goes on to discuss the questions of ferry pier sites, the type of ferry boat which would be required, and the estimated cost and revenue of the various schemes which were considered. The report plumped in favour of a vehicular ferry service between Jubilee Street, Hongkong, and Jordan Road, Kowloon, and a careful perusal of its contents convinces us that that conclusion was a sound one, from all points of view. But the disappointment of the report lies in the fact that the cheapest scheme considered was an elaborate one which was estimated to cost over \$1,700,000, leading to the inevitable conclusion that "it would appear that at the present time, a vehicular ferry would be unable to earn sufficient return to justify the cost of installation."

Surely, there is no need to embark immediately upon a big vehicular ferry scheme, involving the expenditure of well over a million dollars on reclamations and ferry piers and over half a million on ferry boats? Why not a modest beginning? Let it be granted that the cost of building three vehicular and passenger ferry boats would cost half a million dollars. Even then we see no reason why the present landing piers at Jubilee Street and Jordan Road should not be inexpensively converted so as to render it possible to drive vehicles on and off. We see no reason why, if we cannot have the whole scheme we cannot have a piece of it—the piece that is most urgently needed.

The present arrangements for motor transport, in spite of the generosity of the Wharf and Godown Company, are a disgrace to this Colony; and it is certainly safe to predict that if there were vehicular ferry facilities the cross-harbour traffic would increase enormously, and almost at once. We have a quarrel with the way in which some of the transportation costs have been worked out in the Government report, for it is hardly fair to calculate what would be the cost of transportation by lorry and vehicular ferry from a waterfront godown on the Kowloon side to a waterfront godown on the Hongkong side, and contrast it with cost of transportation by junk and coolies. A better idea of cost comparison could be gained by taking the present cost of conveying cement from Hungnam to the site of a building (say, on Caine Road), or by taking any example where there is a fair amount of land transportation involved on each side of the harbour. If a contractor could load a lorry at Kowloon and get that load transported without changing lorries to a site on the Hongkong side, his cost would, we are sure, be less than now, after adding the \$1 for ferry fare.

The weakness of the present report is that it outlines a complete and expensive scheme for which the Colony is hardly yet ripe. It should be possible to proceed by easier stages, and we are somewhat surprised that no attempt has been made in the report to enter for the interim period between now and the time when the full scheme would be a sound economic venture. If the transportation needs of this Colony are going to languish until a full scheme would be a paying proposition, then we are in for many more years of bad service and hindered progress. The schemes for a harbour bridge or tunnel are adversely commented upon, and it is to ferries that we must look for a relief of the present situation. It would be encouraging news for motorists and all others interested in vehicular transportation if the Government announced its intention of considering some temporary scheme—an announcement which we think it ought to make without further delay.

Britain's Recognition.

In signing the new tariff treaty, recognising the principle of complete tariff autonomy for China, Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister, took the first really important step in diplomatic relations between the British Government and the National Government of China. The second step was a natural consequence. The signature having conferred *de jure* recognition automatically, there could be no further purpose in withholding formal recognition, and the ceremony was carried out yesterday morning with much pageantry. Sir Miles presenting his credentials as Britain's Minister Plenipotentiary to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek. The decision will appeal to liberal minds, though we have no doubt there will be considerable criticism in such quarters as habitually regard every such friendly gesture with derision. It may be pointed out, with a certain amount of justification, that the political leaders at Nanking have no greater claim to represent a stable Government than was the case six months ago. It may even be true that signs of disruption in their ranks are already appearing, and that the question of the abolition of the branch political councils still important issues, the present Government may be broken in the near future. We are inclined, however, to be well satisfied with the broad principle embraced. Britain's undoubted sympathy with China, her conciliatory attitude to every reasonable point of view, and the declarations of December, 1926 and January, 1927, left little option but to confer formal recognition on the Nanking Government at the earliest convenient opportunity. As we pointed out last week when the negotiations were opened, the test of stability, is an exceedingly difficult one to apply in China. We cannot conceive, at this stage, of any change of Government which would be any more spectacular for instance, than a victory for the Labour Party at the polls in England next year.

CHRISTMAS ROMANCE.

[By W. Greenwood, F. S. A.]

In the 'fifties of last century the progenitor of the Christmas cracker was a very modest affair of white tissue paper with fringed and dyed edges in which a few sweets were placed, and its sales were counted in hundreds. To-day its glorified and gorgeous successor is a work of art employing many thousands of skilled hands, and scattered far and wide over the earth in almost countless millions.

This transformation is largely due to the enterprise of the firm of Messrs. Tom Smith and Company, whose wonderful factory the writer was privileged to visit a few months ago.

It was on a blazing July afternoon, when thoughts of Yuletide were as remote as the Poles, that I visited this famous cracker factory, the headquarters from which Father Christmas showers with prodigious hand millions of gay-coloured tokens of jollity and goodwill over the whole world from "China to Peru." Outside, the streets were sweltering under the midsummer sun; inside, Christmas reigned supreme, with all its atmosphere of fun and festival.

Everywhere was a riot of tinsel and tissue, spangles, ribbons and silk, many-hued as the rainbow; Christmas toys, knick-knacks and curios lay scattered about in tens of thousands, as if poured out of some gigantic and magical cornucopia. Christmas mottoes flashed their genial greetings wherever the eyes fell, and throughout the vast building hundreds of deaf hands were busy ministering to Christmas pleasure five months ahead.

"We re-opened our works on the twenty-eighth of last December," said my guide, "and we shall go on working until next Christmas Eve; and I can assure you it will take us all our time to get our huge supply in readiness. And, even with our twelve months of preparation, there is always a rush at the end, for commissions have a knack of coming in at the last moment."

After this startling statement I was not surprised to learn that a thousand pairs of hands are kept constantly at work from Christmas to Christmas; that the millions of crackers turned out in a single year, if placed end to end, would reach from London to New York, or would make a close-packed column considerably larger and wider than Nelson's monument.

"Everything connected with the crackers," my guide informed me, "is made on the premises. Cap-making, for instance, is a huge department in itself, millions of these articles being cut out yearly by a series of machines. The packing is all done by another set of workers, in boxes all made on the premises, the designs upon them, also home-made, being colour-printed here. We have an extensive printing plant, lithographic and engraving departments, and editorial and artistic staffs."

What I was most anxious to see in this hive of busy hands, however, was the actual making of the crackers, the work of a small army of nimble-fingered girls, any one of whom if expert, can easily turn out from four to six gross a day.

Each girl, I found, is equipped with a store of the various papers and contents, a gluepot (in which, by the way, only one finger is dipped), and the requisite implements, which consist of a hollow cylinder, a metal block of the same pattern, and a piece of string. First of all, the worker spreads out in front of her the outer gorgeous covering of the fringed ends, together with the inner white sheet or lining and the ornamental borders, all of which are made by machinery on the spot. Then the "snap" is laid centre-wise, and the whole quickly rolled round the cylinder, the block being placed inside at the other end.

The division occurring between these two marks the place for tightening the cracker, and this is quickly done by means of the string or fingers before the souvenir of the article—whether doll, jewel, mask, or toy—is dropped in through the aperture by the brass tube aforesaid. This is then withdrawn, and that end is sealed in like fashion as the other. After this the pictorial emblems are affixed in skilful fashion before the cracker is passed on to the packing department.

As for the contents of the crackers, many of them are nowadays objects of real value, artistically speaking, such as little knick-knacks or foreign curios—china pug dogs, reproductions of classic vases, etc., in biscuit-china, scent-bottles in miniature, fans, and small Venetian-china scent-bottles. Messrs. Smith's agents ransack the whole world for these quaint curios, tens of thousands of which come from the Far East. This gigantic business, I was told by my genial guide, was very modestly cradled by the father of the present head of the firm about seventy years ago, when thirty or

DAY BY DAY.

DAY FOLLOWS ON THE MURKIER NIGHT, AND, WHEN THE TIME COMES, THE LATEST FRUITS WILL RIPEN.—Schiller.

H.M.S. Stormcloud and H.M.S. Sterling arrived at Shanghai from the Yangtze on Thursday.

Attractive calendars are to hand from D. Chellaram, of the Popular Silk Store, and from the N.Y.K. offices.

Fifteen more cases of small-pox were notified yesterday, all being Chinese. Of these, 13 were from Kowloon districts.

A Chinese suffering from a fractured skull was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital yesterday in a serious condition and died shortly after admission. A police report states that the man received his injuries when he fell from a cockloft to the floor of his house a drop of some nine feet. The deceased lived at No. 1 Eastern Street.

The death is announced of Mr. W. R. Chappel, mining engineer and formerly a partner in the firm of Osborne and Chappel, of Ipoh. Mr. Chappel was well-known in mining circles in Malaya where he had resided for many years. He was admitted as a partner of Osborne and Chappel as long ago as 1891, the year in which the firm introduced hydraulic working in the tin mines of the F.M.S.

Private James Boyle, of the K.O.S.B., who is under a charge of attempted murder, and, alternatively, of cutting and wounding Sergeant Kerr whilst on board the troopship Somersetshire, was again remanded at the Central Magistrate's court this morning for one further week. The incident, it will be recalled, occurred on October 20, while the vessel was nearing Colombo. It is understood that the Sergeant's condition is still precarious.

forty hands were sufficient for the demands made on them. The first improvement on the very primitive cracker of the time was making the paper, or envelope, longer, the ends being secured together with the fingers. Then followed the "snap," the crimping of the ends with a cord instead of with the fingers, and the modelling-stick which ensured uniformity of size. Next came paper caps from Germany; and, with the introduction by the firm of jewels, trinkets, toys, and so on, the popularity of the cracker increased by leaps and bounds.

Among the many curious crackers made by the firm was one for a wealthy, but bashful, bachelor who could not summon up courage to propose to the lady of his heart. In one end of the cracker was placed a valuable engagement-ring; and, said my friend, "the pop" of the cracker led to a pop of another kind, and a happy marriage."

For many years the firm supplied a thousand crackers to Dan Leno for the monster juvenile Christmas parties that good-hearted comedian loved to give; and for many years, too, the firm supplied crackers for use in the Drury Lane pantomime by the late Harry Payne; and "Whimsical Walker."

"I remember," says Mr. Walter Smith, "the latter telling me what a fright he once got when, in throwing crackers up to the Royal box where Queen Victoria and her grandchildren were seated, he all but hit her Majesty in the face. 'Whimsical Walker' was greatly upset, fearing that her Majesty would be annoyed, and did not feel at all happy until he saw the Queen laughing heartily at his misadventure."

The Christmas cracker has occasionally assumed gargantuan proportions, such as that which caused no little sensation in a New York theatre last year. This giant towered sixteen feet high, and when it was exploded, with the report of a small cannon, a door flew open in its middle and disclosed a merry party of six, drinking each other's health around a table on which a sumptuous feast was spread.

A cracker large enough to contain a fair-sized dining-room is sufficiently startling, but what shall we say to one as tall as the average house, and capacious enough to provide three rooms on as many storeys? Such was the Brobdingnagian cracker erected by a North Country baronet in the ball-room of his country house. This gigantic cracker, which took half a dozen workmen some weeks to erect, was a structure of wire-work, thirty feet high, standing on a platform which made it still more imposing.

Across the Atlantic it is no unusual thing to spend hundreds of pounds on a single cracker in which is jewellery, such as a diamond ring, pendant, or bracelet. One millionaire, indeed, is said to spend thousands of pounds yearly on specially-designed crackers, which contain expensive presents for his friends.

The Very Idea!

One of the neatest forms of shoplifting has just been carried out successfully in one of the large boot and shoe establishments in South London. A "customer" entered the store, took a seat, and was shown a number of shoes. Eventually he allowed the shop assistant to lace up a selected pair, then, after taking a few steps up and down the carpeted floor, asked to see another type of shoe. The assistant mounted the shop stool to reach a high shelf. He descended and turned to where he had last seen the "customer," only to find that he had disappeared, leaving his discarded and well-worn cast-offs. A pair of old gloves, placed on an adjoining seat, had succeeded in removing any suspicions which might have been entertained by the other assistants in the shop at seeing him leave the stores.

(A lady swimmer has just created a record in America by remaining in the water for 21 hours.)

Believe me, I do not begrudge her the praise. She's given, who, so we are told, remained for a matter of nearly three days in the sea, which is apt to be cold. But, since of some fault for which I was to blame, My Mary still scathingly speaks. Though it happened long since, I can truthfully claim To have been in hot water for weeks.

A lady in Madras who was about to sail for England feared that in her absence her Irish terrier, Paddy, might not be properly cared for, especially as her husband was frequently out in the district "on tour." Consequently she arranged with a friend in Bangalore to take care of Paddy till she should return to India.

Her husband accompanied her as far as Bangalore, and Paddy, after an absorbing journey, was safely installed with charpoy, chudidar, and basin in his new home. The next morning his mistress resumed her journey to Bombay, and her husband returned to Madras.

Thirty-six hours later "Master" was electrocuted, when an exhausted little Irish terrier flung himself at his feet, his paws raw and bleeding.

He had been seen racing along the railway track, at various places along the route between Bangalore and Madras, a distance of roughly two hundred and fifty miles or thereabouts.

A man at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, said he would plead guilty to half the charge of being drunk and disorderly and added that he had drunk twenty-four bottles of beer, but was not drunk. Witness in a motor-car case at Kingston-on-Thames: The defendant never attempted to stop until he was stopped.

"Marriage is a parlous adventure for wise adults, but it is a very serious stop for babies."—Mr. Cairns, the Thames magistrate, to a man and wife aged 19 and 20 charged with disorderly behaviour.

"She has the usual artfulness of a widow."—A landlord's description of his lodger at Shoreditch County Court.

Mr. Cairns, the Thames magistrate: If every Southern Irishman that promised to go back to Cork did so, there would be a substantial increase in the population of that city.

Two newly-arrived visitors to a hotel in Florida were ordering breakfast.

The first visitor informed the negro waiter that he wished grape fruit, bacon, eggs, pancakes, syrup, and coffee; the other visitor (who came from Boston, that resort of American propriety), said, "I will have precisely the same, but with the eggs eliminated."

The negro waiter floated away, only to return with an apologetic smile.

"I'm powerful sorry, boss, but we can't fix you dem algs you wants. The cook's done bruck de handle of de eliminator, and he can't get a new one till next Toosday."

Officer:—"How can you tell that the prisoner had been celebrating too freely?"

Corporal:—"Because, sir, 'e was standin' outside 'is tent at twelve o'clock argifyin' with the sergeant, sir."

Officer:—"That is no proof that I can see. Scotsmen always argue."

Corporal:—"But there weren't no sergeant there, sir."

Two Aboriginians went bathing. One said—"I'll hot you sumpence I can stay under water longer than you."

The other said—"All right." Both submerged.

The police are still looking for the bodies.

FORGED BANKNOTE TRIAL.**CANTON OFFICIAL GIVES EVIDENCE.****CELLULOID TRACING.**

The case against eleven alleged traffickers in forged banknotes was continued before Mr. R. E. Lind-sell at the Central Police Court this morning.

Ho Pun Sze, an official of the Central Bank of China at Canton was called as a witness to speak as to the character of certain exhibits seized in the case. He told the Court that he had had nine years' banking experience, being latterly in charge of the Issue Department of the Nationalist Bank as its assistant Superintendent.

He said that the institution with which he was connected had its principal office at Canton, and was to be distinguished from a Bank of the same name which was recently established at Nanking.

The Canton Central Bank issued notes of the usual five denominations, these being made by the American Banknote Company. Before being issued the signatures of Wong Lung Sang, the Manager and T. V. Soong, the Finance Minister, were printed thereon.

Shown two exhibits bearing impressions of the front and back of a Central Bank ten-dollar note, witness stated they were fairly good forgeries.

Shown two copper plates, witness said the impressions could have been produced from those

About Hong Kong**Do you know that**

The Law Court was once in charge of a military guard?

This practice continued until March, 1857, when the guard was withdrawn.

The presence of the guard, it is recorded, had always induced an agreeable feeling of security, and its withdrawal was not looked upon with satisfaction.

plates. The signatures of the two Bank officials also could have been produced by the zinc plates, while the tracing on a piece of celluloid film resembled the scroll work on the forgeries.

The case was adjourned.

MAGISTRATE DECLINES TO TAKE CASE.**ABSENT PROSECUTOR IS REBUKED.**

In the absence of the prosecutor, Mr. E. W. Hamilton, at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning, refused to hear a charge of larceny brought against a ten-year-old Chinese boy by Mr. J. Haddon, manager of the P.A.A.F.I. Canteen, Whitfield Barracks.

Defendant was charged with stealing three mineral water bottles. When the case was called, Sergeant Riddell informed his Worship that the complainant could not get away to Court.

His Worship: Oh! Can't he? Well I can't try his case. Will you tell the gentleman with my compliments that the next time he brings a case to Court he will either be good enough to attend the Court or not set it before the Court.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE RECEPTION.**BIG GATHERING OF CHINESE RESIDENTS.**

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and Mrs. Southern gave a most enjoyable reception at Government House last night to several hundred prominent members of the Chinese community.

After His Excellency and Mrs. Southern had received the guests, there was a cinema performance in the ballroom, which was preceded by the Hon. Sir Shouson Chow who addressed the gathering in Chinese and also expressed thanks to the host and hostess. The pictures shown, by arrangement with the Hongkong Amusements, Ltd., included the Armistice Day observance in Hongkong, as well as local sporting events, whilst the main film was "Senorita," starring Bebe Daniels.

Later, the whole company were entertained to a sumptuous supper, and during the evening dancing took place. The function was greatly enjoyed by all present.

NEW LAW AGAINST CABARETS.**200 FILIPINO GIRLS OUT OF WORK.**

Manila, Dec. 18.

Cabarets, dance halls and public dancing schools will not be allowed to operate in the town of Cavite, except on Saturday, Sundays and holidays, according to the new ordinance passed by the Municipal Council of Cavite last Saturday night.

The new law against these "centres of vice" was sponsored by Councillor Ramon de Castro, patterned after a model ordinance from the executive bureau. On the first of January, when the ordinance will take effect, four cabarets will be closed and approximately 200 "bailarinan" will be out of jobs.

The ordinance met with a stiff opposition from cafe owners who claimed that the operation of these cabarets bring revenue to the Treasury. Councillor de Castro answers that he "would rather choose security of public morality rather than walk on a prosperity paved with immoralities' money."

FANLING GOLF.**STARTING TIMES FOR SUNDAY.**

The starting times for Sunday's golf at Fanling are:

9.28 a.m.—A. B. Stewart and R. H. Hollis.
9.32 a.m.—E. D. Black and H. Spicer.
9.36 a.m.—R. A. Green and J. D. H. Crawford.
9.40 a.m.—F. A. Merry and L. R. Andrewes.
9.44 a.m.—A. E. Wood and N. L. Smith.
9.48 a.m.—W. J. S. Key and C. J. Waddell.
9.52 a.m.—A. R. Cox and W. C. Clarke.
9.56 a.m.—R. L. Stewart and H. N. Laver.
10.00 a.m.—I. G. S. Dodwell and A. H. Ferguson.
10.04 a.m.—R. K. Valentine and J. S. McEachran.
10.08 a.m.—H. G. Williams and D. Forbes.
10.12 a.m.—H. J. Mills and A. E. Mitchell.
10.16 a.m.—V. M. Grayburn and J. D. Danby.
10.20 a.m.—W. A. Weight and J. P. Sherry.
10.24 a.m.—H. G. Sheldon and D. J. Lewis.
10.28 a.m.—W. S. McKinley and L. J. Blackburn.
10.32 a.m.—I. H. Geare and K. B. Greig.
10.36 a.m.—J. Raikes and H. U. Ireland.
10.40 a.m.—W. J. Clerk and I. MacKay.
10.44 a.m.—W. D. Brown and R. Young.
10.48 a.m.—C. E. Holmes and T. L. Christie.
10.52 a.m.—A. C. I. Bowker and D. J. Gilmore.
10.56 a.m.—A. D. Humphreys and J. Cameron.
11.00 a.m.—T. G. Weall and J. M. Norrie.
11.04 a.m.—F. A. Perry and S. M. Mayes.
11.08 a.m.—A. B. Purves and A. E. Lissaman.
11.12 a.m.—F. A. Redmond and E. des Voeux.
11.16 a.m.—P. P. J. Wodehouse and J. S. MacLaren.
11.20 a.m.—L. Gardner and G. E. Towns.
11.24 a.m.—L. Yates and H. A. Lammert.
11.28 a.m.—A. Leach and Major Beamish.
11.32 a.m.—A. Ritchie and A. N. Other.
11.36 a.m.—G. B. Matthews and A. Webster.
11.40 a.m.—A. B. Raworth and M. M. Maas.
11.44 a.m.—R. E. Greensmith and R. Barrett.
11.48 a.m.—D. Ellis and J. Gardner.

ELEPHANTS AMOK.**EXCITING SCENES IN BANGKOK.**

Bangkok, Dec. 10.

Exciting scenes were witnessed when two Royal elephants broke their hobbles and fought each other. One animal ran away to the river landing, which broke, the elephant being precipitated into the mud. It became stuck fast, and all efforts to extricate it being unsuccessful, it died.

The following morning the other elephant killed its keeper, and afterwards was poisoned with strychnine, administered in sugarcane. Both animals were mustling. They were not white elephants.

Two Norwegian seamen were injured by a fire in the Norwegian steamer Baltique, in Surrey Commercial Docks three weeks ago.

INNER MEANING OF RELIGION.**MR. MANUK ON CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM.****CHRIST EXPLAINED.**

Last evening, Mr. M. Manuk gave an interesting address at the Theosophical Society's headquarters on the subject of Christian mysticism.

In the course of his address, Mr. Manuk said the present age has seen an extraordinary impetus given to man's mind, and man therefore refuses to accept that which he cannot understand. The Theosophical teaching brings to the enquirer the inner meanings hidden in parables and allegories to explain the fundamental truths in every religion.

The life of Jesus the Christ was an indication how we are to proceed in order to know the Father within us. He claimed to be one with the Father and attributed all his works to that Father in Him. "Of myself I can do nothing, the Father in me, He does the works."

An "Elder Brother."

The term "Christ" is mistakenly taken to be the name or title of the person Jesus, but the "Christ" is in reality, the Christos the second or Love aspect of the Universal Life whom we call God and to whom Jesus referred as the Father in Heaven. This Christ aspect is latent in all men only waiting for its manifestation or birth. "My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you."

The life of man Jesus when studied exteriorly gives us a clear history of the evolution of the soul from the human to the superhuman stage. The story as related in the Gospels, may or may not be quite accurate as a historical event but the incidents woven into the life of the man Jesus are an accurate process of the unfolding of the life within through temptations and sufferings, crucifixion and death and the ultimate liberation from the illusions of the lower self.

Symbolism.

His birth symbolises the birth of the Christ in each man, and as an aspect of the Eternal, it is of "virgin birth." His Baptism symbolises the washing away of the lower and worldly desires and the acquisition of the power to overcome the temptations of the lower self.

His transfiguration is the spiritualising of his physical emotional and mental aspects and the bringing of these into harmony with the "Christ" within as an instrument for His fuller manifestation.

His Crucifixion and burial is the story of the ultimate elimination of the lower aspects of the personality and His Resurrection and Ascension are the story of man's final triumphant rise from the grave of human illusions and the raising of the "Christ" within to the throne and the "Father in Heaven."

Considered as such, the life of the Christ is a wonderful story of the life of man and his ultimate goal.

Comm. Engineer J. A. S. Hutchinson has been appointed to H.M.S. Seraph.

KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL.**FANCY DRESS PARTY LAST NIGHT.**

Last evening, there was a happy gathering at the Central British School, at Kowloon, when the annual fancy dress party was held. In addition to scholars, parents and friends, the Director of Education (Mr. A. E. Wood) was present.

There were some extremely effective costumes worn by the children, and the judging was carried out by Mrs. J. Manners, whilst the prizes were distributed by Mrs. W. Farmer. The winners were: 1st Girl—M. Mason. 1st Boy—L. Marshall. Most Original Costumes—Peggy Everest (girls) and D. McKay.

THE "TELEGRAPH" ART SUPPLEMENT.**Sporting & Other Pictures To-morrow.**

Sporting events will figure largely in to-morrow's issue of the Telegraph Art Supplement.

The illustrations will include photographs taken at the final in the Lai Wah football cup final; the final of the mixed doubles tennis championship of the Colony at the Chinese Recreation Club on Sunday, with pictures of the finalists; group of the General Committee of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club; rowing practice at Canton for the coming regatta; the South China Athletic volleyball championship team; the basketball teams of the Gas Company; and a group of the Hung Hui football team.

Of social events, there will be photographs of the wedding of Lieut. K. W. Beard and Miss Peggy Bird; and of the Peak School's fancy dress party.

Volunteer activity in camp will be shown by a picture of the Infantry Company and another of the Artillery Company carrying out gun practice.

Amongst other pictures will be the first photograph to reach Hongkong of the crowd outside Buckingham Palace anxiously waiting news of the King's condition, together with a photograph of His Majesty standing bareheaded in the rain at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, on which occasion he caught the cold which led to his serious illness.

Extra prize, Thomas Whelan. Following dancing, the children staged two little plays—"The Grand Cham's Diamond," by Allan Monkhouse, and "The Boy Comes Home," by A. A. Milne. Those taking part were Joan Black, Richard Tobin, Patricia Hynes, Desmond Hynes, Reginald Woolley, Barbara Budden, Audrey Hinson and Marion Bryson.

Mr. Bingley (the Marylebone magistrate): "It is a man's business to control and look after his wife."



"I'd buy a fur coat if I only felt sure of my job for the next three years."

FATALITY AT RACE MEETING.**LIEUTENANT KILLED IN THE PHILIPPINES.****MISHAP ON COURSE.**

Manila, Dec. 18.

Struck down by a running horse during the horse races at Camp Stotsenburg, Second Lieutenant Jesus Airan, of the 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, was injured fatally on Sunday afternoon. The officer died at 5.45 p.m. on Sunday, death being caused by cerebral hemorrhage.

Lieutenant Airan was a spectator at the races and was standing at the finish line. A horse owned by the officer and entered in the race thundered past the finish line, winning the race, and as it did, Lieutenant Airan turned and followed the horse with his eye.

As he turned, he involuntarily stepped on the track and as he did so, another horse following close, struck the Lieutenant, knocking him unconscious. He was taken to the post hospital where he died without regaining consciousness.

Due to the accident the polo tournament, horse show and race meet that was scheduled for the entire week at Stotsenburg, has been postponed until some time next month.

Lieutenant Airan was born January 20, 1900, the son of Anando Airan, an ex-colonel of the revolution, who resides in Bulacan, Bulacan. Lieutenant Airan was appointed to the West Point Military Academy, from the Philippines, July 1, 1921, and was graduated June 14, 1925, with the commission of second Lieutenant.

Surviving the officer are his father, a brother, Mariano, a priest, and a sister, Soledad, principal of the Bulacan elementary school.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**REFERENCE TO KING'S ILLNESS.**

At yesterday's meeting of the Legislative Council, presided over by H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, six new Bills were read a first time, and resolutions were passed confirming approval of Hongkong Tramway extensions and altering the rates on Apichau tenements to 10½ per cent.

King's Illness.

Addressing the Council when the meeting opened, His Excellency said:—Hon. members of the Legislative Council: Before we take up the business on the agenda, I should like to make reference to that matter which has been during the past fortnight, been uppermost in the minds, not only of Hon. members, but of all his loyal subjects, viz. the serious illness of His Majesty the King. It is too early to say that our anxiety is allayed, but I am sure that the Council will have received with feelings of the keenest relief the welcome news that His Majesty continues to make progress and that there are now surer grounds for the hope of His Majesty's recovery. We respectfully tender our sincerest sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family in the anxious period through which they have been and still are passing.

Sir Henry Pollock.

There is one other matter which I wish to mention. I feel sure that hon. members will wish me to offer to Sir Henry Pollock our congratulations on his recovery and to extend to him a very hearty welcome on his return, to a participation in our deliberations.

Sir Henry Pollock returned thanks.

EXCHANGE RATES.

	London, Dec. 20.
Paris	124.05
New York	48.64
Brussels	34.93
Geneva	25.18
Amsterdam	12.08
Milan	32.05
Berlin	20.80
Stockholm	18.12
Copenhagen	18.18
Oslo	18.19
Vienna	34.40
Prague	163.4
Helsingfors	192.3
Madrid	20.734
Lisbon	109.3
Athens	375
Bucharest	809.4
Rio	5.29/32
Buenos Aires	47.11/2
Bombay	1/6.1/32
Shanghai	2/7
Hongkong	2/0 1/2
Yokohama	1/10.23/32
Silver (spot)	26.5/16
Silver (forward)	26.7/16

A picture of one of the big Messageries Maritimes ships adorns the company's 1929 calendar.



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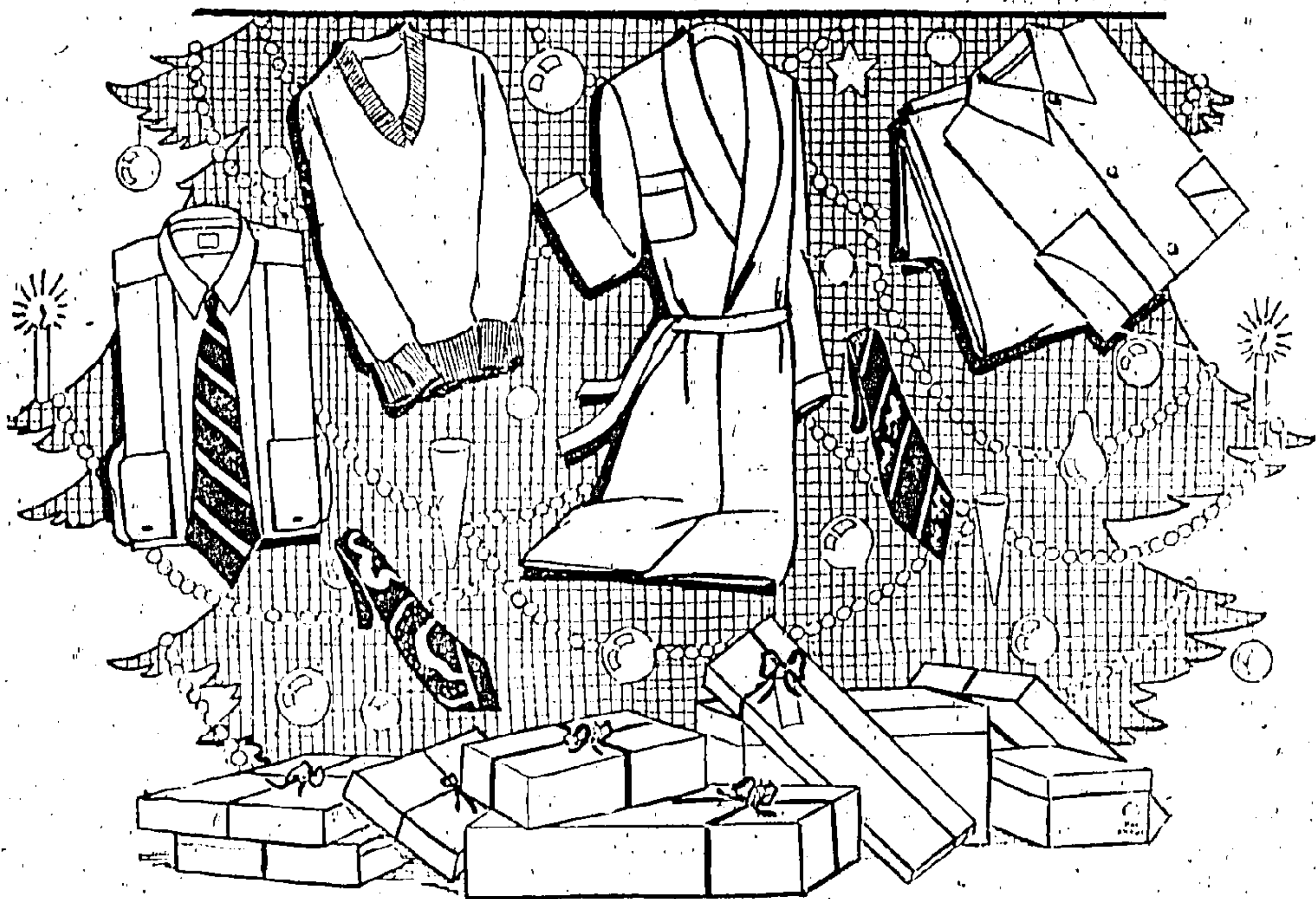
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THE WORLD OF SPORT

CHINESE SENIORS CLASH.

NEEDLE MATCH IN THE SOCCER LEAGUE.

ATHLETIC PAYING VISIT TO CAROLINE HILL.

NAVY TEAM STRONGER.

(By "Wanderer.")

After another respite, the soccer league resumes in full swing tomorrow, a full programme of matches, five Senior and six Junior, being down for decision.

Only one of the matches in the Senior Division has any distinct bearing on the championship, and that is the game between the two Chinese teams on the Caroline Hill ground. Both teams are at full strength and a great struggle is certain.

The fixture list, together with grounds, time of kick-off and referees appointed, is as follows:

Senior Division.

South China v. Chinese Ath.—Caroline Hill, 4 p.m.—Mr. Hollands.
Club v. Small Units.—Club, 4 p.m.—Capt. Austin.
Kowloon v. R.O.S.B.—Kowloon, 4 p.m.—Mr. Barber.
Police v. Royal Navy.—St. Joseph's, 4 p.m.—Mr. Atkinson.
R.A.F. v. Recreation.—Sookumpoo, 4 p.m.—Mr. Kerlake.

Junior Division.

K.O.S.B. v. Eastern.—Sookumpoo, 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Toms.
Navy v. Queen's.—Navy, 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Lee.
R.A. v. Kowloon Chatham Road, 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Greig.
South China "B" v. St. Joseph's.—S. China, 2.30.—Mr. Stokes.
Recreation v. Chinese Ath.—Recreation, 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Hatwell.
R.A.F. v. Small Units.—Kowloon, 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Greig.

CHINESE CLASH.

The programme contains no match of greater interest or importance than the first meeting this season of the two Chinese teams, South China and Chinese Athletic, and the problem of the home side will be to find accommodation for the huge crowd which is certain to see the match.

The sides are exceedingly well matched, and I imagine it will be a question of no quarter asked or given from start to finish. The game presents a variety of possibilities, and it has no more attractive feature from the point of view of non-Chinese interest than the fact that all the old Chinese stars will be on the one side, possessing slightly the better League record.

It would seem to be a matter of Greek meeting Greek, and the chances are that the first goal will settle the result; that is, if a definite result is achieved.

Caroline Hill will be taxed to its full capacity, with probably a large overflow. Mr. Hollands will referee.

A Rare Tussle.

A rare tussle is to be expected in the Navy-Police game, and it is unfortunate that the venue is the St. Joseph's ground. The Navy are in a position to field a particularly fine side just now, as witness their triumph over the Army, and the Police will be hard put to it to preserve their recent record of immunity from defeat.

The strength of the Police defence is likely to be tested to its fullest; indeed, it seems most likely that it will meet its Waterloo.

Kowloon are at home to the Borderers, and cannot be too hopeful of doing more than keep the score down as far as possible. The loss of Guest at right back is a severe one, the substitute Robson being an uncertain quantity inasmuch as his abilities have never been given a real test. He may turn trumps and in that event, the home team may do sufficiently well to satisfy their supporters even if a win is not registered. The forward line is the same as that which failed to penetrate the Police defence last week, though I noted that Hayes was having knee trouble.

The Club should gain a comfortable win at the expense of the Small Units, while the Recreation ought to be capable of accounting for the Royal Artillery. I believe Gosano is fit again, and this should make a host of difference.

Junior Matches.

The Junior League fixture list contains two matches of interest. The Navy and the Queen's second elevens are among the sides struggling for the leadership, and a keen duel is to be expected. The Borderers, the leaders at present,

SHAMEEN FOOTBALL.

COMMENTS ON RECENT MATCH.

"G. N. W." writes us from Shameen as follows:

It would seem from the account of the Lusitano Recreation Association v. H.M.S. Seamew match in the Shameen Football League published in your issue of the 17th inst., that your Shameen correspondent did not acquaint himself with facts before submitting his article for publication.

To quote your correspondent:—"It must be stated that the Seamew were still suffering from the effects of their very strenuous match against the Shameen Sports Club, so much so that three of their regular team were unable to put in an appearance."

Conceding that H.M.S. Seamew might possibly have fielded the three "regulars" in question had they not played Shameen Sports Club two days previously, it may interest your correspondent to learn that the challenge was issued by the Seamew, who are perhaps better able to pick out their regulars than your correspondent.

Your correspondent did not know, of course, that three of Lusitano Recreation Association's regulars, namely Raleck (mentioned by your correspondent as having represented the L.R.A. in above match), Krilovsky, and Wahab were on the L.R.A. "injured list" on that day, and did not participate in the game.

Apparently, your correspondent did not know that the L.R.A. played 19 men throughout the game against the Seamew's 11, and for some 10 minutes, when Locke was compelled to retire as the result of an accidental injury, only 9; that no such person as Paumund represented the L.R.A. in this particular game, that A. Osmund was included in the L.R.A. line-up, that the equalising goal was scored by the Seamew during the last 5 minutes, and not quarter-hour, that Club Lusitano have not entered a team in the Shameen Football League, but the Lusitano Recreation Association have.

May I suggest that if your correspondent will confine himself in future to a description of a football game as an eye-witness would relate it, his articles will be better appreciated. His personal opinion as to the whys and wherefores and what might have happened had things been thus and so, is beside the point and quite superfluous.

While not seeking in any way to disparage the Seamew team, who are a formidable side for any football team in the Shameen Football League, and who, in the writer's opinion, are a potent winner of the 1928 season, perhaps you will be kind enough to publish the above, if only for the sake of accuracy.

are meeting the steadily improving Eastern F.C. and it would not surprise greatly if the army team received another check.

Kowloon should gain at least one point from the R.A. while the Chinese Athletic and the R.A.T. should prove successful.

Teams.

The following teams have been selected:

Kowloon 1st: Angus, Robson, Pike, Hedley, McKelvie, Easterbrook, Cleme, Hayes, Miles, Spary and Baldwin.

Kowloon 2nd: Angus, Jr., Nicholas, Hast, Moore, Dunnett, Blocklock, Hannan, White, Moss, King and Eastman.

Players Suspended.

The Hongkong Football Association has forwarded for publication the minutes of an Emergency Committee meeting held in the Board Room of the South China Morning Post last night when Mr. Hall took the chair, others present being Messrs. J. Ormiston, H. K. Lee and W. E. Hollands (Hon. Secretary).

South China v. Police Mid-Week League game on Dec. 5.—Rodgers, of Police, ordered off for deliberately kicking an opponent, suspended for the rest of the season.

Ewo Chinese v. Hung Kui School Mid-Week League game on Dec. 12.—Hau Sun-chi of Hung Kui School ordered off for deliberately kicking an opponent, suspended for the rest of the season.

Lai Wah Cup Final, Army v. Chinese.—Tao Kwai-shing of the Chinese team ordered off for deliberately kicking an opponent, suspended for the rest of the season and his re-instatement into football for next season to be considered in September.

Eastern v. Queen's Junior League game on Dec. 15.—M. Sabben, of Eastern, reported for ungentlemanly conduct toward the referee after the game. Cautioned and warned as to his future conduct.



FROM WHITEAWAYS.

LADIES' HOCKEY.

There will be a match at King's Park on Saturday at 3.30, when the following ladies, representing the officers of the Club will play a team representing the rest of the Club:—B. Laing, M. Bird, J. Coppin, A. Owen-Hughes, J. Whyte, J. Andrews (Capt.), I. C. Bell, N. Mc. Neill, E. Bell, B. Baker and P. Goddard. The rest of the team will be:—M. Wallace, F. Cousins, A. Steel, E. O'Hagan, M. Russell, B. Taylor, M. Hansen, E. Russell, M. Riggs, C. Fergusson and M. J. Jarvis.

Mr. J. W. Barber joining the Committee, it proceeded to select "The Rest" team to play against the Army on January 1st as follows:—Clark (Police); Wynne (Police); Baker (Titanic); McKelvie, Capt. (Kowloon); Perks (Navy); Lam Yuk-ying (Chinese A.A.); Barkham (Titanic); Gosano (Recreation); Goldman (Club); Suen Kam-shun and Chan Kwong-lu (Chinese A.A.).

Reserves: Evans (Navy), Ng Kam-chuen (Chinese A.A.), Hodley (Kowloon), and Rocha (Recreation). The game will be played on Sookumpoo ground, kick-off at 3.30 p.m. Players will dress at Sookumpoo. White shirts will be provided.



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One of Her "Bad Days."

Some little children are particularly prone to having "bad days", days when they are peevish and restless, refuse to play or be amused, and are easily excited to tears.

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FORGED NOTES.

COUNTERFEIT STRAITS
MONEY FROM CANTON.

Tam Wing, a cook employed on the s.s. Sai On was charged before Major C. Willson at the Central Police Court yesterday afternoon, with the possession of 342 forged Straits Settlement Treasury notes; these being all of the ten-dollar denomination.

Sub-Inspector Murphy conducted the case for the police, the defendant being unrepresented.

The first witness called was Tam Cheung-hing, a shroff of the Mercantile Bank of India, who gave expert evidence as to the forgeries. He stated that the water-marked tiger's head on the false notes was less distinct than on the genuine ones, while the figure "510" was also faint. The picture which occupied the centre of the design on one side of the forged notes was also inferior. As a whole, witness said that they were not very good forgeries, although they might deceive an ordinary person not well-versed in these matters.

In reply to his Worship, witness said he had been employed at the Mercantile Bank for seven years, and was a "forgery expert." He had had experience in these Straits notes, which were bought in by the Banks.

The Arrest.

Chinese Revenue Officer No. 23 stated that on the 10th instant, while on duty on the Tung On Wharf, he intercepted the defendant, who was coming out with a bulge showing beneath the front of his jacket which indicated that he had something tied in his girdle. The man told him it was opium, and that was sufficient for witness, without making a search, to take him to the Revenue Office.

It was Revenue Officer A. W. Grimmit, who having been sent for, carried out the search, and found not opium but forged notes which were now the subject of the charge.

Witness had some difficulty in identifying the man charged before the Court as the man whom he took into custody. After observing that he "suspected" that the defendant was the man, witness later made a statement definitely identifying him. "He looks much thinner now than he was a week ago when I first saw him," witness explained.

Given to Him.

Revenue Officer A. W. Grimmit stated that he asked defendant where he got the notes from, and the latter replied that a man named Leung Kee had given them to him in the lavatory of the Sai On.

Defendant took witness to a tenashop but failed to pick out the man whom they were looking for. On their return to the Revenue Office, the defendant was turned over to the police. The notes were then counted on being returned by Mr. E. R. Dovey, the Government Analyst.

Defendant was committed for trial at the January Sessions.

COMPANY REPORT.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND
MINING COMPANY.

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., was held in London on the 17th December, 1928, when the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1928, were to be submitted.

An extract from the Directors' report shows that the net result of the year's transaction gives balance to the credit of Profit and Loss Account of £534,457, made up as follows:

Proportion of Kailan Mining	
Administration's Profits	£477,605
Interest in Europe	14,894
Agency Fees	6,000
Sundries	270
Balance brought forward	255,447
(Less Sundry Items)	754,225

Deduct:

Expenses in Europe	£16,115
Directors' Fees	4,200
Exchange	78
Income Tax	59,375
Interim Dividend	140,000
paid on 1/6/28.	210,768

Leaving a net balance of... £534,457

which the Directors recommend should be appropriated as follows:

Final Dividend of 15%	£210,000
(free of Income Tax)	
Directors' Percentage	13,000
Balance carried forward	810,557
	£534,457

THE HO FOOK CUP.

KOWLOON AMBULANCE MEN
COMPETE.

A high standard of first aid work was reached by members of the Kowloon Railway Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade, who competed for the Ho Fook silver cup on the ground of the Kowloon Football Club yesterday afternoon. The cup, which was presented by the late Mr. Ho Fook is the only ambulance trophy for which the Kowloon Railway Division are able to compete so that the event is looked forward to with the greatest anticipation.

Originally 32 members competed, being divided into eight squads of four men each. Preliminary heats were commenced on October 7 and were continued on successive Sunday mornings until completed, leaving two squads to contest the final.

The Winners.

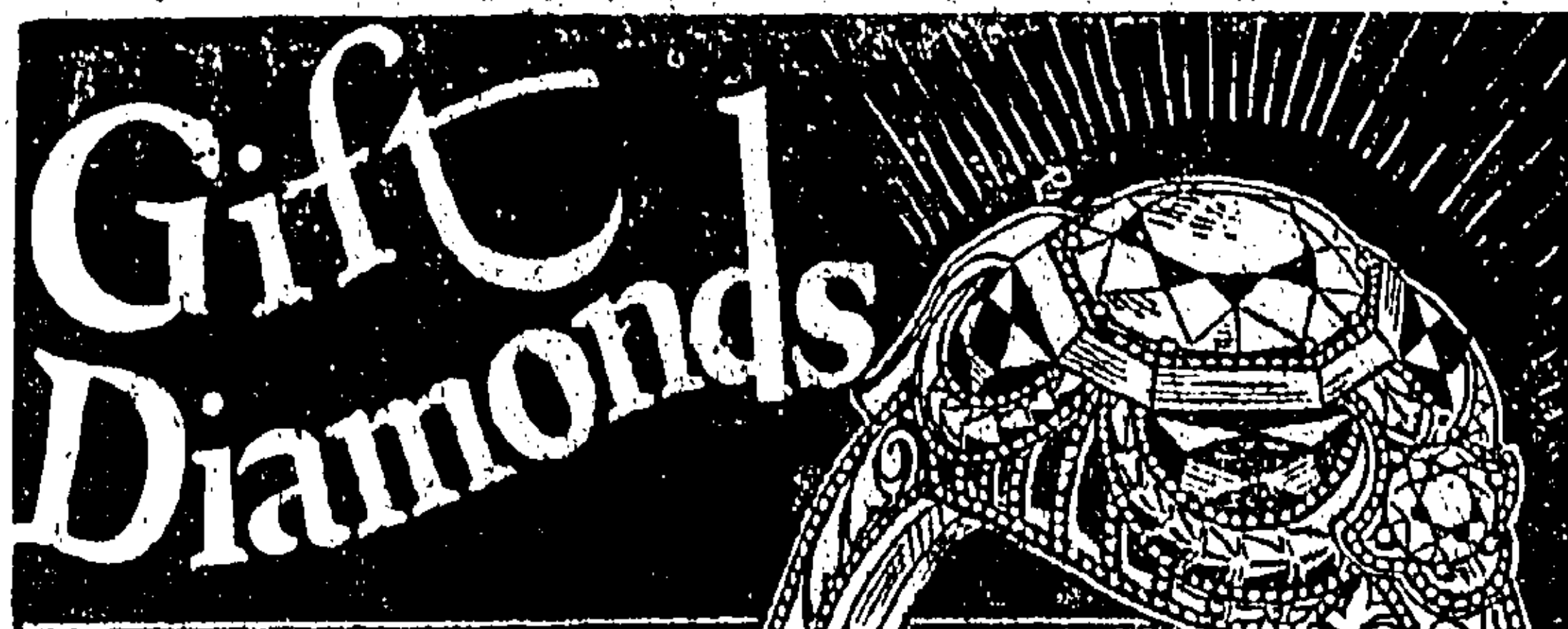
The finalists in their order were: (1) Li Ping-tsan, Kun Ngok-sang and Leung Chung-yin; (2) Wan Hau-kong, Chung Tin-cheong, Chau Yuk and Lam Hon-cheong. It will be noted that the winning squad competed with only three men as against their opponents' four, this being because one of their men, Cheung Kam, died on October 24. The fact that this team won, in spite of being one man short, speaks well for their high standard of efficiency.

The whole of the Railway Division, all being Chinese, competed for the cup this year. Dr. J. E. Dovey conducted the heat examinations and the teams eliminated passed their tests with the following percentages 43, 77, 77, 78, 80 and 61. The two finalists won their semi-finals by defeating their opponents with 88 per cent. against 82 per cent. and 90 per cent. against 85 per cent.

The Tests.

Examination tests for the finalists were set and judged by Major Campbell, R.A.M.C., and Surgeon Lieutenant Davis, R.N., the competitors being called upon to deal with cases of haemorrhage, fractures, fainting and unconsciousness and poisoning. These operations they carried out extremely well and favourably impressed the Judges.

After the winning squad had been decided upon, Li Ping-tsan received the cup from the hands of Mr. R. Baker (manager of the Kowloon-Canton Railway). Mr. Baker congratulated the finalists and especially the winners as they had been one man short. He expressed thanks to Dr. Dovey for



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OUR display of Jewellery, Gold and Silver Ware, Cut Glass and Novelties is better than ever this year.



the time he had devoted to the division throughout the year and more particularly to the competition which made a considerable call on his time.

He was told that a high standard of work had been maintained during the year, in spite of fewer practices due to increased train services and heavy passenger

traffic with Canton. Thanks Expressed. Concluding, Mr. Baker also expressed thanks to Mr. E. Ralphs and Mr. A. Morris, as well as to Major Campbell and Surgeon Lieutenant Davis for being present, and conducting the tests. Those present then adjourned to the club house where tea was provided.



THIS YEAR OUR SELECTION OF "YULE—TIDE"
GIFTS IS BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER.
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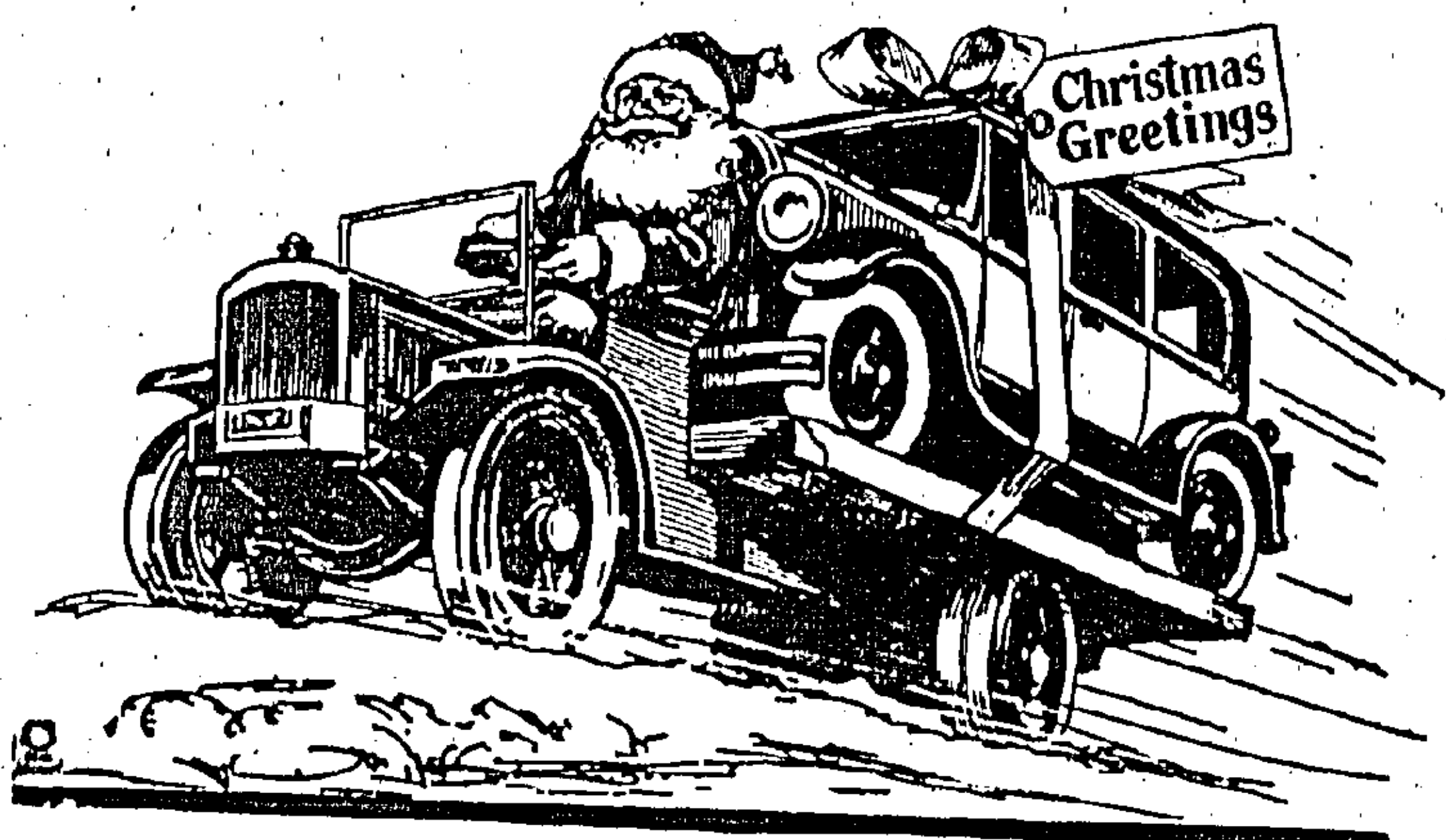
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THE HONGKONG HOTEL GARAGE.

CARVALHO YEO CASE.

COMPLAINS AT SEVERITY OF
SENTENCE.

APPEAL ABANDONED.

The question as to whether, or not the Pulane Judge (Mr. Justice Jacks) was right in ruling that the evidence of Police records was not admissible as evidence during the trial of Carvalho Yeo at the last Criminal Sessions, was definitely decided by the Full Court yesterday afternoon. The judges were the Chief Justice (Sir Henry Gollan) and the Pulane Judge (Mr. Justice Jacks). Their Lordships ruled that the decision of Mr. Justice Jacks was right, and that the evidence was not admissible.

In the course of the sitting, Carvalho Yeo, stated that the sentence he was serving was very severe, but Sir Henry Gollan informed him that they were not concerned with that question at the moment. If he wanted to make representations in that connexion he would have to send a petition to the Governor.

The point with regard to police records was taken by Mr. F. C. Jenkin, who, instructed by Messrs. Russ and Company, defended the accused, while Mr. Eldon Potter, K. C. and Mr. H. G. Sheldon prosecuted for the Crown.

Mr. Jenkin objected to the production of part of the police file concerning the investigations made with regard to Tsang On-wing and Chan Man-kun, saying that the whole file should be produced in order to be able to give the proper value to the document. The position is explained in the following statement, which was read yesterday afternoon by Mr. W. Thomson, clerk to the Chief Justice.

Mr. King's Refusal.
"At the trial of this case, Mr. Thomas Henry King, Deputy Superintendent of Police, was asked in cross-examination by Counsel for the defence if he would produce the records of the Criminal Investigation Department with reference to the enquiry by that department into the question of whether Tsang On-wing and Chan Man-kun, two Treasury clerks, were implicated in the fraud on the Treasury, as a result of which they were arrested and charged, but subsequently discharged for want of evidence."

"Mr. King refused to produce the records without instructions from the head of his department. Counsel for the Crown stated that the Director of Criminal Intelligence would not produce the records unless ordered to do so."

"(Mr. Justice Jacks) rule that the reports of the Criminal Investigation Department with reference to Tsang On-wing and Chan Man-kun are protected in this case. It being contrary to public interest to compel their production."

"On the application of Counsel for the defence, the question as to whether the records in question were privileged was reserved for further consideration of the Full Court under section 78 of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance No. 9 of 1899."

"The accused was convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour. The question for this Court to decide is:—Was the Judge right in extending the protection of privilege to the records of the Criminal Investigation Department on the ground that they are official secrets? and upon consideration thereof to affirm, or to quash the conviction, or to direct a new trial and to make such other orders as may be necessary to give effect to its decision."

Point Abandoned.
The Chief Justice then informed the accused that a letter had been received from the defence, stating it was not proposed by them to take any steps to seek the opinion of the Full Court on the point reserved. His Lordship explained to Carvalho Yeo that the letter meant that the question of the police records, which the trial judge (Mr. Justice Jacks) reserved at the instance of Mr. Jenkin, had been abandoned."

Asked if he wanted to say anything, the accused commented on the sentence of 10 years he was serving, remarking that it was very severe. He went on to say that according to reports he had seen in the newspapers there were some men sent to prison for only five years on charges concerning \$113,000 and \$150,000.

Sir Henry Gollan pointed out that the Court had nothing to do with the length of the accused's sentence. If he desired to make representations with regard to that he must send a petition to the Governor. The Court was only dealing with the question as to whether the evidence of the police records should have been admitted or not.

The accused then stated that he had nothing else to say.

Pulane Judge Right.
Addressing Mr. Fitzroy, (Counsel

PUBLIC MONEY.

EXPENDITURE OF \$78,286
APPROVED.

The Colonial Secretary (the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, C.M.G.) presided at a meeting yesterday of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, at which supplementary expenditure amounting to \$78,286 was approved.

In regard to a vote for \$60,000 for transport for Government servants, Sir Henry Pollock asked when the period of leave was reduced and whether it had been approved by the Finance Committee of the Council.

The Chairman replied that the length of service to qualify for leave was approved very shortly after Sir Cecil Clementi arrived in the Colony.

Sir Henry Pollock wanted to know whether it was brought before the Finance Committee. It looked to him as being something in the nature of a bonus to Government servants.

The Chairman said that leave was now granted for four years' service and in very senior cases it was possible to obtain leave by special privilege after three years. Both these rules had been incorporated in the general orders for some time, but he was not prepared at the moment to give the exact date.

Hon. Mr. Hynes asked whether this was the first year on which increases had been asked for in this respect.

The Chairman replied that the increases ran for more than a year. It so happened that more officers had been due for leave during the present year.

Sir Henry Pollock's point is that this matter should have been brought before the Finance Committee because obviously this amounts to something like a bonus the officers are receiving.

The Chairman replied that his impression was that it was brought about in order to make leave uniform throughout the Empire.

Sir Henry Pollock: I still think this should have been brought before the Finance Committee.

The Chairman mentioned that it was referred to in the estimates when a sum of \$200,000 was provided for. In passing that, members accepted the general orders under which leave was granted. The matter had been brought before the Legislative Council and the Finance Committee.

After further discussion, a copy of the estimates was produced in which the matter was referred to, and Sir Henry Pollock expressed himself as satisfied.

Free Vaccination.

Sir Henry Pollock asked, in respect of a vote for \$450 for vaccination and registration of births, what provision was made for public vaccination in view of the present outbreak of small-pox.

The Chairman replied that vaccination was performed free of charge in Government hospitals, in Chinese hospitals, at Chinese public dispensaries and by the St. John Ambulance and Red Cross. The latter was conducting a vigorous campaign and the figures of the numbers vaccinated were very satisfactory.

Anti-Malaria Work.

With regard to a Sanitary Department vote for \$150 in respect of anti-malaria work, Sir Henry Pollock asked in what outlying districts the work was being carried out.

The Chairman replied in the vicinity of the police stations in the New Territories and also in a number of the larger villages.

Sir Henry Pollock was assured by the Chairman that the Chinese section of the Kowloon-Canton railway had already paid the charges referred to in a vote in respect of Chinese Section rolling stock.

for Crown), Sir Henry Gollan said that the accused's legal advisers had informed the Court, according to their letter of December 18, that they did not desire the question of the police records to be dealt with. The Court had assembled because it seemed impossible to accept the letter, and it was necessary for the Court to sit in order to decide definitely one way or the other. They were quite clear in their views that the evidence was not admissible and that consequently Mr. Justice Jacks was right in his conclusion.

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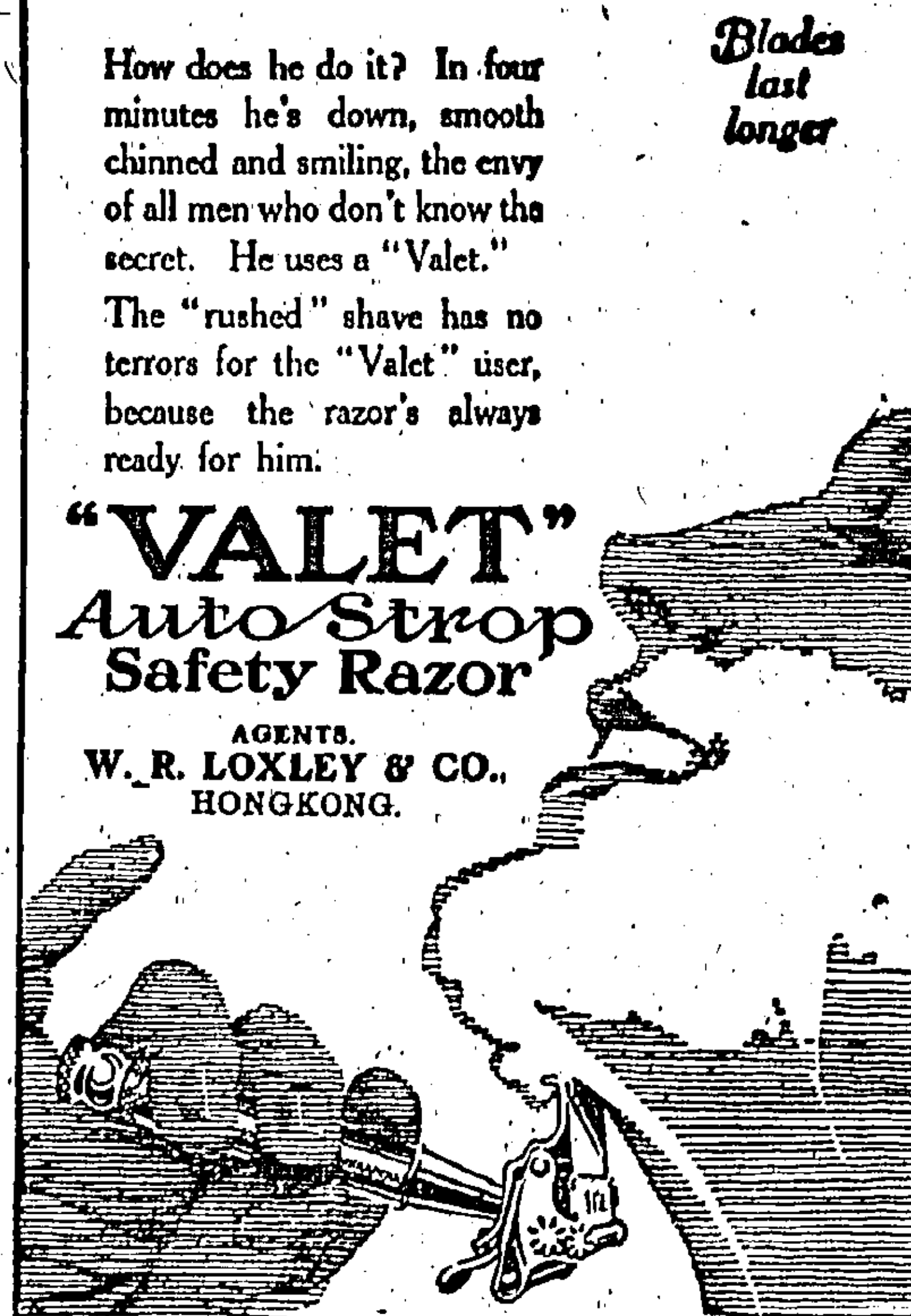
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A FIRST NOVEL!

WHIRLWIND

By Eleanor Early.

CHAPTER XLI

Something had happened. On her feet, Sybil felt suddenly dizzy. Perhaps she grew pale, for a man in a blue uniform took her arms and walked beside her. Up there—in front of those people. The cynosure of all eyes.

She squared her shoulders bravely. And those in the courtroom saw the judge bend kindly toward her. His grizzled locks seemed to touch her satin turban. Peterson's bald head gleamed beside. Only a word or two.

Sybil's lawyer put his hand beneath her elbow and they left the courtroom through the judge's lobby. Then the judge stood before the vast assembly and spoke very quietly.

"There has been an accident. Richard Easton, defendant in this case, accompanied by his attorney, motoring from New Haven to attend this session of the court, was killed this morning in Providence."

A second's silence. And then a buzz—the dreadful buzz of gossip. Women whispering. "A court officer rapped for silence. And, when the whispering grew, he called harshly: 'Silence! Silence!'"

The judge left the bench. And, presently, the courtroom was cleared and the corridors were crowded.

Excited little groups. "Did you ever! What a dreadful thing!... And I was dying to see him... Well, it's an ill wind—in the judge's lobby Mr. Peterson whispered to Craig."

"I took her out this way," he said, "so no one could see the joy in her face."

And Craig, nodding, understood. Tears ran down Sybil's cheeks and in her eyes was the light of happiness. She took his hand and pressed it for there were no words for the choking ecstasy that was in her heart.

People criticized her for the thing she did that evening. It was bad taste, they say, and perhaps they are right.

Sybil put on a dress of flame georgette and pinned orchids on her shoulder. Then she wrapped herself in a Spanish shawl with poppies on it and sat with Craig Newhall in a theatre box while Richard Easton's body lay on a marble slab in a morgue that was cold as death.

Two days later Sybil gave a tea. And that was the day funeral services were held in New-Haven. From an undertaker's bare parlour the embalmers carried forth a wooden box. A single sheet of roses followed all that was mortal of Richard Easton into the hearse. And no one the papers said, accompanied his body to the grave.

"I suppose," Sybil told her guests as she poured their tea, "that you all think I'm hard as nails, and cruel. Well, I'm not hypocritical, anyhow—and I don't care what people say."

"I'm glad Richard Easton is dead. You've seen the papers. You know what he proposed to do by Teddy and me. To rob us of every shred of decency. To tell lies about us. To further his own wicked purposes by proposing to degrade Craig Newhall. To humiliate my mother and break her heart. To disgrace Valerie and Paul. We believe there was a God till Richard died. Now I know better. It was God who killed Richard. And he killed him because he was too sinful to live. I'm sorry if you think I'm wicked because I'm happy. But I am, my friends. I am very, very happy."

Of course there was a great to-do when news of the tea party was spread. Mrs. Thorne took to her bed, vowing that she would be happier dead than alive. Tad was furious.

"Nice women," he said, "never do things in poor taste." "Prig!" cried Sybil. "Hypocrite! You're just as glad as I am, but you don't dare admit it."

"That's the difference," he retorted, "between a civilized being and a barbarian. Polite people don't parade primitive passions."

"I wouldn't blame Sybil a darn bit," interrupted Craig, "if she did a hula-hula right on the late lamented's well-known grave."

"Oh, you two!" exclaimed Tad, and stalked wrathfully from the room. "You give me a pain."

Tad and Valerie were planning a New Year's party, their last in the old house. In February they

were moving to an apartment of their own. Valerie was taking cooking lessons and a course in interior decoration at Boston University.

"I'm trying so hard," she confessed to Sybil, "to make up for the bad girl I was. With Richard dead I feel that all that horrid part of me is dead, too. I'm going to spend the rest of my life being nice to Tad and then I guess I'll have squared myself."

Craig was trying to persuade Sybil to announce their engagement at the New Year's party. "Nothing like starting the year right," he argued.

"Out of the frying pan into the fire," she laughed.

But that annoyed him. "Please, Sybil," he besought, "don't joke that way. No wonder the hammer and tong artists say you're hard-boiled."

"Oh, they do, do they?" "You know they do. You're the most misunderstood little angel in 40 states."

"And what would they say if I married you? That you'd made an honest woman of me, I suppose?" "One of these days," he threatened, "you'll wake up and find no little Craigie under your foot. Then maybe you'll be sorry."

"Maybe," she acknowledged.

Mabel Moore was apartment-hunting again.

"I'm going to the real estate man I saw last time," she said. "He said, 'Well, it's an ill wind—in the judge's lobby Mr. Peterson whispered to Craig.'"

"I took her out this way," he said, "so no one could see the joy in her face."

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"THE PARISIAN REVUE."

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION AT QUEEN'S.

"The Parisian Revue," a company of ten talented artists under the direction of Signor Carpi, the well known manager of Eastern Theatrical Companies, will open a short season at the Queen's Theatre at 9.20 p.m. on Sunday next, according to a special advertisement in this issue. Among the members of the company are Mlle. Mangel, Mlle. Danseuse, and Boris, ballet master, two clever artists who have appeared with considerable success in such well known places as "The Kit Kat Club," London, "The Folies Bergere," Paris, and "The Winter Garden," Berlin.

Everything from classical dancing to the latest thing in Jazz will be given by the company during the Hongkong season. One item of outstanding merit is the presentation of "Dawn," a beautiful and fantastic creation depicting the evolution of a day. "The Parisian Revue" is Signor Carpi's latest venture in the theatrical world and should prove a refreshing attraction to theatre-goers in general. Seats may now be booked in advance for any night of the season. There is to be a slight increase in prices.

"ROSE MARIE."

THRILLING TALE OF THE "CANADIAN WILDS."

Lovers of thrilling, yet tender, screen romance against a pictorial background will find it on Sunday and Monday, at the Queen's Theatre when "Rose Marie" will be shown. Beautiful Joan Crawford has the title role and James Murray will be seen as the romantic and mysterious young man who comes from the north woods into a fur trading post, starting trouble for everybody in the process. The large supporting cast includes House Peters, Creighton Hale, Polly Moran, Gertrude Astor and Lionel Melmore. Among the many interesting features of the new picture is an exciting canoe race for which more than a hundred birch bark canoes were shipped from Canada to California, and are used in a scene which depicts the return of trappers to the fur-trading post following a winter's work in the Canadian wilds. A thrilling scene in the form of an ice flood comes as the climax to the splendid story.

A FILM AS GREAT AS THE STAGE PLAY!

ROSE-MARIE

With JOAN CRAWFORD HOUSE PETERS, JAMES MURRAY.

THE story of a beautiful girl of the Canadian Wilds who had never given her heart to any man. And then, a great and lasting love—as unfamed as her native forests—came into her life!



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SIGNOR CARPI'S PARISIAN REVUE

A Company of Ten Talented Performers.

COMING TO THE QUEEN'S SUNDAY AND MONDAY

At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15, and 9.20.

OUTDOOR ATHLETICS.

YAU MATI SCHOOL SPORTS AT KING'S PARK.

The Yau mati School held their annual athletic sports at King's Park yesterday and there was a large gathering of supporters of the school, to watch the students go through a long and interesting programme.

There were twenty three events in the card and the students did exceedingly well in the high jump, the winner jumping five feet one inch.

The relay race, open to all schools in Hongkong, was won by the Wanchai Government School, Queen's College being a good second.

At the conclusion of the sports, Mr. C. Mycock, the headmaster invited Mr. A. E. Wood, Director of Education, to distribute the prizes. He was glad to see that the masters who had worked so hard to make the afternoon's sports a success and also thanked Mr. Wood for the interest he took in the school.

Mr. Wood replying said that he felt honoured by having been asked to perform the pleasant duty of giving away the prizes. He thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's sports, particularly the masters who had worked hardest behind the scene, secured places in that race.

The Results.

The results were as follows: 100 yards, Group I.—1, Leung Chin-man; 2, Li Hon-ho; 3, Chan Kam-wing.

100 yards, Group II.—1, Pun Chuen-pui; 2, Leung Tak-wai; 3, Yuen Wai-chek.

100 yards, Group III.—1, Pun Sai-kit; 2, Chan New-wan; 3, Chan Yiu-wan.

High Jump, Group I.—1, Ip Shu-ming; 2, Chan Kam-wing; 3, Leung Chin-man.

High Jump, Group II.—1, Li Sul-hung; 2, Yuen Hon-ching; 3, Sung Tak-wai.

High Jump, Group III.—1, Chan Yiu-wan; 2, Pun Sai-kit; 3, Li Sul-hung.

Sack Race.—1, Au Kwong-wai; 2, Li Sul-hung; 3, Chung Shu-hon.

Flag Race.—1, Pun Sai-kit; 2, Chan Yiu-wan; 3, Tsang Tak-chuen.

Long Jump, Group I.—1, Leung Chin-man; 2, Chan Kam-wing; 3, Li Hon-ho.

Long Jump, Group II.—1, Li Sul-hung; 2, Yuen Hon-ching; 3, Chung Ming-kwong.

Long Jump, Group III.—1, Pun Sai-kit; 2, Chan Yiu-wan; 3, Li Sul-hung.

Three legged race.—1, Li Hon-ho and Tse Che-kau; 2, Tam U-fong and Chan Sik-lun; 3, To Yuen-wing and Chan Kam-wing.

Three Hundred Yards, Group I.—1, Leung Chin-man; 2, Li Hon-ho; 3, Chan Kam-wing.

Three Hundred Yards, Group II.—1, Li Sul-hung; 2, Chung Ming-kwong; 3, Yuen Wai-chek.

200 Yards Handicap, Group III.—1, Lo Tso-choy; 2, Pun Sai-kit; 3, Cheung Chow-ming.

Pick-a-back Race.—1, Ip Shu-ming and Leung Hon-ming; 2, To Yuen-wing

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and Chan Kam-wing; 3, Li Hon-ho and Leung Yun-sang.
400 Yards for past pupils.—1, Lo Kwong-to; 2, Fung Chi-to; 3, Lam Ho-kwan.

Inter-class team race (Senior).—1, Class 4A.
Inter-class team race (Junior).—1, Class 6B.

Invitation Team Race.—1, Wanchai School.
Masters' Race.—1, Mr. Chiu Him; 2, Mr. Sung On-wing; 3, Mr. Ho Yan-tuk.

Tag of War.—1, "A" Division.
Consolation Race.—1, Wong Man-chi; 2, Wong Kam-lai; 3, Li Kwan-lun.

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L. Bernis, Manager, Hongkong, 8rd August, 1928.

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Paid-Up Capital 19,278,000.00

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Silver \$14,000,000

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Current Accounts opened and Fixed Deposits received for one year or shorter periods at rates which will be quoted on application.

A. H. FERGUSON, Manager.

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THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$165,479,625

Commercial and Travellers' Cheques, Bills of Exchange and Cable Transfers bought and sold. Current accounts and Savings Bank accounts opened and Fixed Deposits in local and foreign currencies taken at rates that may be ascertained on application to the Bank.

R. M. McLAY, Manager.

Hongkong, 7th January, 1927.

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THE VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS ISSUED FOR THE WEEK.

The following orders have been issued for the coming week by Lieut. Colonel L. G. Bird, D.S.O., Commandant of the Volunteer Defence Corps:

Friday, Dec. 21.
1. Field Day.—On Sunday, 20th January, 1929 a field firing tactical exercise will be carried out at Fanling in which all units of the Corps will participate. All ranks are requested to keep the day open.

2. Corps Orders.

No Corps Orders will be issued on Friday, 28th December, 1928, next orders will be issued on January 4, 1929.

3. Camp Pay.

All units will parade under Company arrangements to draw camp pay at Corps Headquarters on Friday, 21st December, 1928.

4. Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal.

The following extract from the Hongkong Government Gazette No. 53, of the 14th December, 1928, is repeated for information:

"The Medal shall be worn after all British War Medals in such order as may from time to time be assigned to it, suspended from the left breast by a green ribbon of one inch and a quarter in width."

5. Corps Band.

There will be a full Band Practice on Tuesday, 8th January, 1929 at 5.30 p.m. at Corps Headquarters.

6. The Battery.

Friday, 21st December, 1928: Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. for the purpose of drawing Camp Pay.

Battery Dinner. It is proposed to hold the annual dinner either in the last week of January or the first week of February, 1929.

Will all members please advise The O. C. Battery, as early as possible, if there are any dates within the above period on which they will not be able to attend in order that a date on which the maximum number can attend may be fixed.

7. Corps Signals.

Monday, 7th January, 1929: Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. for Signal Instruction. Dress: Muff.

8. Mounted Infantry Company.

Thursday, 10th January, 1929: Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. for instruction on the Machine Gun. Dress: Overalls.

9. Armoured Car Company.

Car Section. Friday, 21st December, 1928. The Section with parade to draw camp pay at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m.

Friday, 11th January, 1929: Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. for run around the Island in the Armoured Car.

10. Machine Gun Company.

Those who have not yet fired Part II Musketry Course will do so at Stonecutters on dates as hereunder:

Sunday, 6th January—No. 2 Platoon under Lt. J. N. Owen.
Sunday, 13th January—No. 1 Platoon under Lt. H. Owen Hughes.

Launch will leave Queen's Pier at 9 a.m. and call at Kowloon Pier at 9.10 a.m. Arms may be drawn from Corps Headquarters at times given below:

Fridays, 4th and 11th January, 1929, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, or 2 and 4 p.m., or 6 and 8 p.m.
Saturdays, 5th and 12th January, 1929, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

YEN HSI-SHAN.

APPOINTED TO A DIFFERENT POSITION.

Nanking, Dec. 20.
The Central Political Council yesterday decided to appoint Chao Tai-wen Minister of the Interior, and to transfer Yen Hsi-shan to the post of Chairman of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Committee.—*Reuter.*

Dress: Rifle, belt, bayonet, braces and pouches.
Uniform or muff optional.

11. Scottish Company.

Thursday, 10th January, 1929. Platoons will parade at 5.30 p.m. for Machine Gun instruction. Dress: muff, as follows:

No. 5 and 7 Platoons at Corps Headquarters.

No. 6 Platoon at Kowloon Dock.

12. Portuguese Company.

Musketry Part II. Those who have not yet fired Part II Musketry Course will do so at Stonecutters on Sunday, 6th January, 1929. Range Officer: 2/Lieut. J. S. Rodrigues.

Launch will leave Queen's Pier at 9 a.m. and call at Kowloon Pier at 9.10 a.m.

Friday, 11th January, 1929: Parade at Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. Everyone will be expected to be present.

13. Promotions.

No. 948 L/Cpl. G. Davidson, M. I. Company to be Corporal as from 14.12.28.

No. 971 L/Cpl. R. O. Sutherland, No. 7 Platoon to be Corporal as from 19.12.28.

14. Transfers.

No. 573 Sergt. V. Goulbourn is transferred from Car Section to the Reserve Company, as from 26.11.28.

No. 1259 Spr. C. A. L. Rickett is transferred from the Engineer Company to the Car Section, as from 12.12.28.

15. Reversion.

No. 455 Corporal T. C. T. Beck, M. I. Company is permitted to revert to the ranks at his own request, as from 15.12.28.

16. Leave.

No. 1380 Pte. J. L. Litton, No. 2 Platoon, sick leave from 9.12.28 to 8.6.29.

No. 1184 Signy A. S. Ismail, Corps Signals, from 12.12.28 to 15.1.29.

No. 893 L/Cpl. A. Nisim, Car Section, from 17.12.28 to 11.1.29.

17. Struck off the Strength.

Having left the Colony, as from 21.11.28:
No. 767 Pte. E. H. Clark, No. 1 Platoon.

Having claimed his discharge on completion of three years' service, as from 13.11.28:
No. 832 Pte. W. J. Howard, No. 2 Platoon.

18. Marksmen.

The undermentioned have qualified as marksmen and are entitled to wear the badge for one year:
No. 21 L/Sgt. F. C. Goodman, No. 6 Platoon 110 points.

No. 971 Cpl. R. O. Sutherland, No. 7 Platoon 94 points.

R. A. WOLFE MURRAY, MAJOR;
ADJUTANT, H. K. V. D. CORPS.
NOTICE.

The Commandant wishes all ranks of the Corps a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

CONSIGNEES' NOTICE.

SERVICES CONTRACTUELS DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

The Steamship.

"ATHOS II"
Arrived Hongkong on 18th December, 1928, from MARSEILLES &c., also bringing cargo from COGNAC, LA PALICE &c., Ex. s.s. "TETUAN".

Consignees of Cargo by the above named steamer are hereby informed that their goods with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and placed at their risk in the Godowns of the Hongkong Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Kowloon, whence delivery can be obtained as the goods are landed.

Goods not cleared within 7 days including date of arrival, will be subject to rent.

All claims must be sent to the undersigned before Thursday the 27th December, 1928, or they will not be recognized.

Damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the consignees, and the company's Surveyors Messrs: Goddard & Douglas at 10.00 a.m. on Monday the 24th December, 1928.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

L. LESDOS, Agent.
Hongkong, 18th December, 1928.

THE BEN LINE STEAMERS, LTD.

From LEITH, MIDDLESBRO', ANTWERP, LONDON, STRAITS and PHILIPPINES.

The Steamship.

"BENARTY"
Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 23rd December, 1928, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 6th January, 1929, or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 22nd December, 1928, at 10 a.m. by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas.

No Fire Insurance has been effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO. LTD.
Agents.
Hongkong, 16th December, 1928.

THE BEN LINE STEAMERS, LIMITED.

From MIDDLESBRO', ANTWERP, LONDON and STRAITS.

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Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 28th December, 1928, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 11th January, 1929, or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 27th December, 1928, at 10 a.m. by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas.

No Fire Insurance has been effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by.

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"AENEAS" 22nd Jan. M'les, London, R'dam & Glasgow

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"ATREUS" 26th Dec. Shanghai, Kobe & Yokohama
"THESEUS" 30th Dec

PASSENGER SERVICE
"HECTOR" 24th Dec. Singapore, Marseilles & London
"AENEAS" 22nd Jan. Singapore, Marseilles & London
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Pres. Jackson ... Tues., Jan. 1st Pres. Pierce ... Tues., Dec. 25th, 8 a.m.
Pres. McKinley ... Tues., Jan. 14th Pres. Taft ... Tues., Jan. 8th
Pres. Grant ... Tues., Jan. 28th Pres. Jefferson ... Tues., Jan. 21st
Pres. Cleveland ... Tues., Feb. 11th Pres. Lincoln ... Tues., Feb. 4th

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Pres. V. Buron Sun., Jan. 13, 8 a.m. Pres. Adams Sun., Feb. 24, 8 a.m.
Pres. Hayes Sun., Jan. 27, 8 a.m. Pres. Garfield Sun., Mar. 10, 8 a.m.

To Manila
Pres. Jackson ... Dec. 22nd, 6 p.m. Pres. McKinley Jan. 5th, 6 p.m.
Pres. Wilson ... Dec. 30th, 8 a.m. Pres. V. Buron Jan. 13th, 8 a.m.
Pres. Taft ... Jan. 1st, 6 p.m. Pres. Jefferson Jan. 15th, 6 p.m.

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TO MOJI & KOBÉ	Suisang	Wed. 26th Dec at noon.
TO OSAKA VIA AMOI, SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBÉ	Namsang	Sun. 30th Dec at 7 a.m.
TO STRAITS & CALCUTTA	Namsang Kutsang	Satur. 5th Jan at 3 p.m. Wed. 9th Jan at 3 p.m.
TO SANDAKAN	Mausang Hinsang	Fri. 11th Jan at 3 p.m. Fri. 18th Jan at 3 p.m.
TO CANTON	Chipsang	Sun. 23rd Dec at 10 p.m.
TO TIENTSIN	Chipsang	Thurs. 27th Dec at noon.

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Steamship "CARDIGANSHIRE" (Via Oran)	6th Mar.
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Steamship "GLENSHANE"	31st Dec.
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Motor Vessel "GLENAMORY"	11th Feb.
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OUTWARDS FOR SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBÉ & MOJI.

S.S.	Sails hence on or about
"VENEZIA"	3rd Jan.
"TIMAVO"	22nd Jan.
"REMO"	31st Jan.

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S.S.	Sails hence on or about
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"VENEZIA"	5th Feb.
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CHINESE GUNBOAT LAUNCHED.

(Continued from Page 2.)

following Great Britain's lead in reconstructing slowly and gradually. Later, development would come more rapidly in order that China might take her place in the world as a country. By helping China Great Britain secured increased commerce and the co-operation of the two nations could not but be for good. In conclusion Capt. Chu said that he admired the British shipbuilder particularly not only for his work but for his example to the rest of the world.

Tribute to the Staff.

A toast was enthusiastically honoured, Mr. Bailey in reply saying that he was sure everyone had been deeply impressed by Capt. Chu's remarks. Such an able speech, so full of common sense that it would be a credit to a statesman, was indicative of the China of to-day. The sentiments expressed with regard to Great Britain were highly appreciated and were fully reciprocated by those on whose behalf he spoke. Mr. R. Sutherland, expressing thanks on behalf of the guests to Mr. Bailey and Mr. Mendham, said the ceremony of the launching had been both interesting and unique. Those who knew anything of work on ships knew that there were men behind the scenes. It was necessary to have the directing mind but he thought it fitting that he should propose a toast to the European and Chinese staff of the Company the work of which had been seen by them all that day. It was the work of a willing and conscientious staff, carried through in times which were none too easy for anyone.

The toast was duly honoured, Mr. Mendham in reply saying that the Company had devoted itself most earnestly to the construction of the new vessel and all felt gratified that the launching had been carried out so successfully. It was no secret that a time like that was a little anxious for everyone connected with the new vessel. Capt. Wu said the design of the ship was the result of his training in England. His instructors at Armstrong College had been most patient and the new gunboat was merely the fruit of British hospitality. The work on the ship was not his, but Messrs. Bailey's and he thought it might be desirable to point out that the arrangement was for anti-piracy purposes. The gathering terminated with a vote of thanks to Madame Li Chai-sum, proposed by Mr. Bailey.

The New Vessel.

The new ship is a steel twin screw river gunboat, her dimensions being length 121', breadth 21' 6", depth 8'. Service speed is 14 miles per hour on maximum draft of vessel of 4 feet 6 ins. The vessel is built of galvanneal steel with straight stem and cruiser stern. The steel deck houses occupy the middle of ship with clear deck spaces forward and aft, there is a steel mast of lattice type for carrying a machine gun, search light and wireless antennae in conjunction with a short wooden after-mast and rigging serving for general outlook. Bullet proof plating and wire netting are fitted along both sides of the ship in way of main and upper decks. The

crow is housed under deck and the Captain and officers on the upper deck which is built over a steel house and extends to the ship's sides. The whole length of the vessel is divided into nine water tight compartments by steel bulkheads.

For quickness in turning there are two rudders of spade type. Bullet proof plating is also fitted in way of engines and boilers and around the four sides of the upper deck. The ship's sides are armoured from under side of fender to 6 ins. below the waterline in way of magazine and machinery spaces; bullet proof shields made to raise or lower are fitted at decks.

The primary gun is housed forward on the upper deck on a strong steel support. Smaller foundations are fitted for lighter guns. The vessel's wireless has a day and night sending and receiving radius of 200 miles.

Construction Details.

Electric signal lights are fitted at mastsheads, protected by metal frames and connected to the Morse keyboard. The wheel house is fitted with metal racks for rifles, engine telegraph and voice tube, and the windows are fitted with bullet proof shutters. An ammunition hoist located in the crew space forward with an iron ladder to deck, is fitted with hoisting gears and buckets and bullet proof steel cover. There are three crew spaces, one forward and one aft of magazine, and one abaft engine room. Metal lockers are provided for effects of the crew. The Captain's room is on the upper deck and has a white enamel bed with spring mattress, locker, lavatory, and upholstered settee and bell pushes, etc. Baths are provided for Captain and all officers.

The engines are triple compound with condenser athwartships, and common to both engines, and all pumps are independent of main engines. All workmanship and materials are in excess of Board of Trade Requirements. The condenser is of the Uniflux type with solid drawn brass tubes. The air pump is of the Mono type, independent and steam driven, while the circulating pump is also independent.

There are two general service

BRANCH COUNCILS.

TO BE CONSIDERED BY MEETING AT NANKING.

Shanghai, Dec. 20.

It is reliably reported that the question of enforcing the decision reached at the fifth plenary session of the Kuomintang held in August, to abolish the branches of the Political Council on January 1, 1929, will be brought up at a meeting to-day of the Central Executive Committee.

Such is likely to result in a heated discussion, a number of influential leaders maintaining that unification of the country is impossible unless the branch Councils are abolished; while there is very strong opposition to abolition shown by other influential leaders who are unwilling to sacrifice the power and rights at present enjoyed by the branch Councils.

It is possible that the "opposition" will be able to force, in any case, a postponement of the carrying out of the fifth plenary session's decision.

In this connexion it is noteworthy that Mr. Chang Ching-ling, General Tan Yen-kai and Mr. Chu Ming-yi, who are among the most prominent members of the Central Executive Committee, and Mr. Hsueh Tu-pi (Minister for Health), who are believed not to favour abolition of the branch Councils, arrived here from Nanking this morning and will, therefore, not be present at to-day's meeting of the Central Executive Committee.—*Reuter.*

pumps with connexions to every part of the vessel.

Steam is supplied by a water-tube boiler of Thornycroft's latest type, tested to 350 lbs. and working at 200 lbs. per square inch, and is of 2,800 square feet of tube surface. The boiler casings are of steel, lined with asbestos. All engine and boiler fittings and mountings are of the very highest class. An eight kilowatt electric steam generator set, oil driven generating plant, switch board and also a fire pumping set are fitted.

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2.00 p.m. "WING ON" from Wing Lok Wharf. (Sundays Excepted)	2.00 p.m. "SUI AN" (Sundays Excepted)

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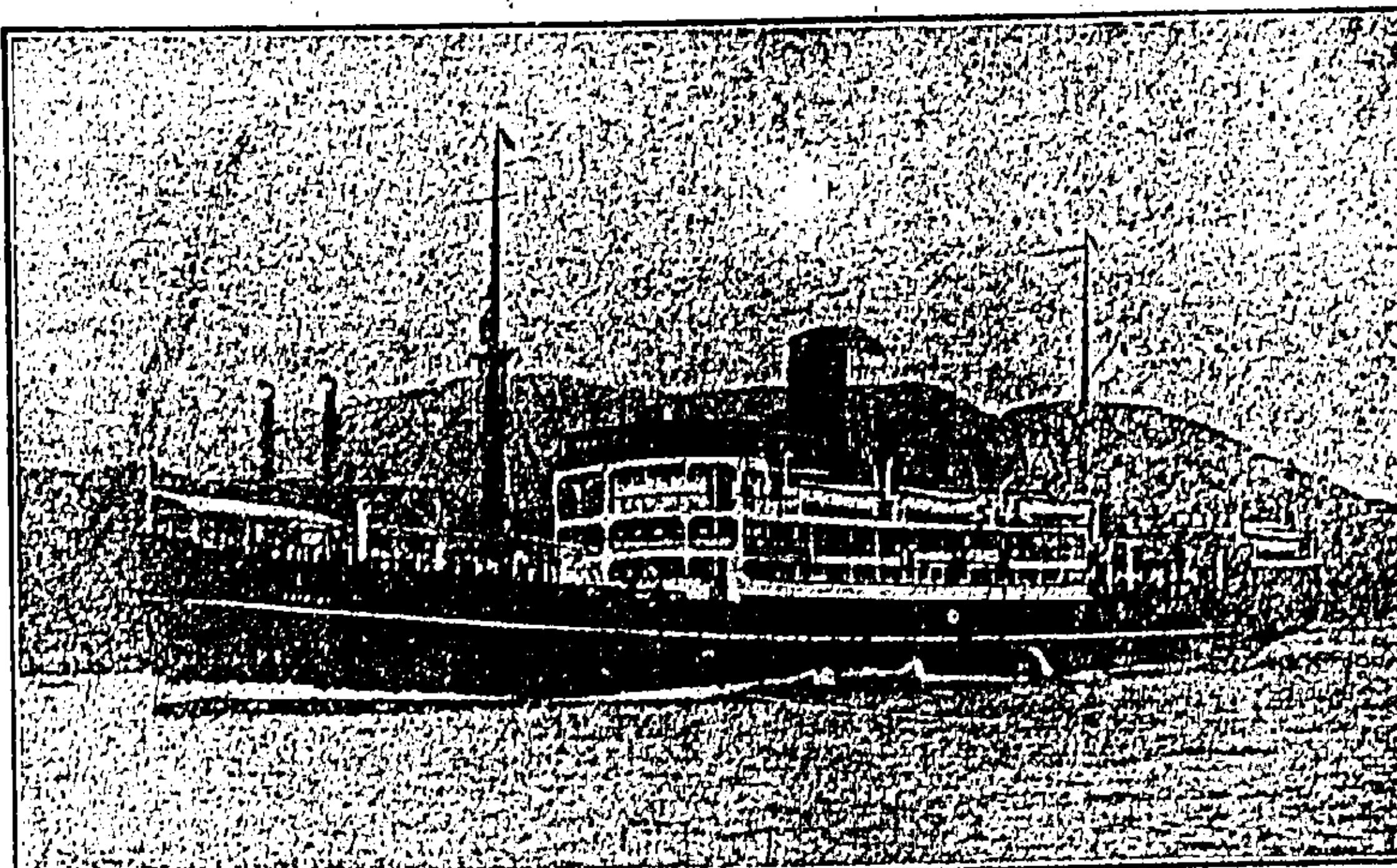
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KALYAN	9,144	19th Jan.	Marseilles, L'don & Hull
ALIPORE	5,273	24th Jan.	Straits, Colombo & B'bay

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KALYAN	9,144	23rd Dec.	S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yoko
ALIPORE	5,273	1st Jan.	Moji & Kobe
SANTHIA	7,754	2nd Jan.	Amoy, S'hai, Moji, Kobe, Yoko & Osaka
MOREA	10,953	4th Jan.	S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yoko

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Aki Maru Wednesday 23rd Jan.
Mishima Maru Wednesday, 20th Feb.
BOMBAY via Singapore, Penang & Colombo.
Nagato Maru Thursday 27th Dec.
Yamagata Maru Sunday, 30th Dec.
SOUTH AMERICA (WEST COAST) via Japan, Honolulu,
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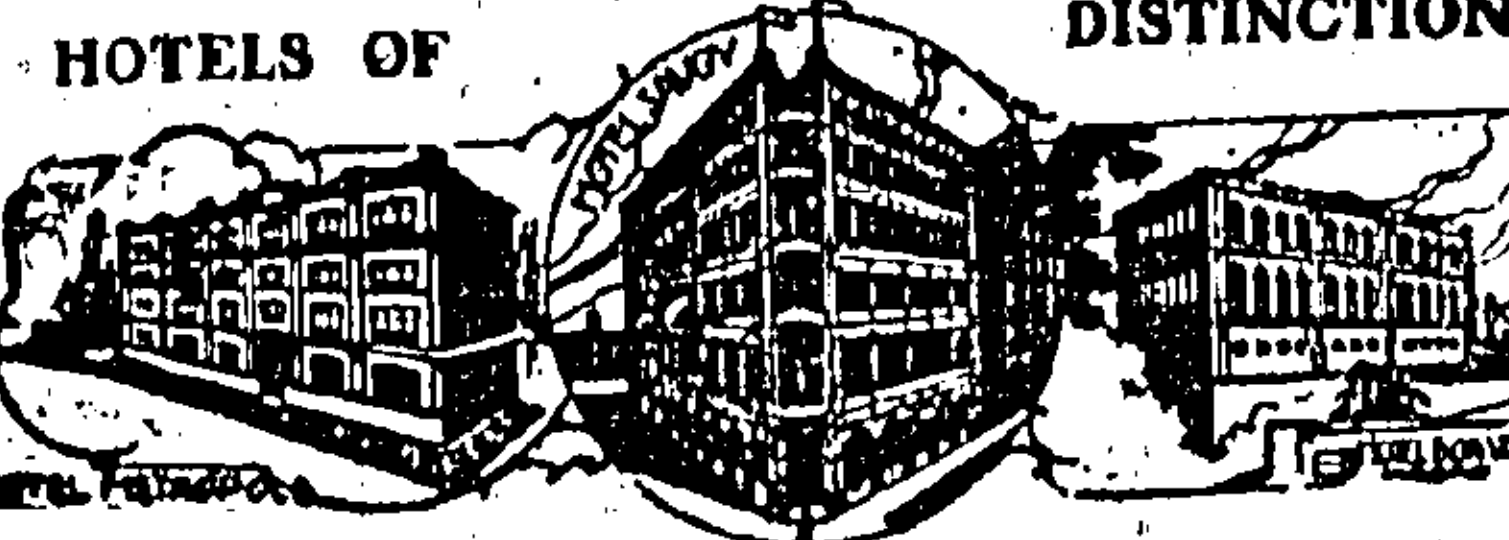
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HISTORIC EVENTS AT NANKING.

SIGNING OF SINO-BRITISH TREATY CELEBRATED.

NUMEROUS SALUTES.

Naval wireless messages received in Hongkong to-day give details of the signing of the Sino-British Treaty. It is stated that signatures were affixed to the document at 1.15 a.m. on Thursday at Nanking, the British Minister and his full staff having presented their credentials earlier.

The route from the Consulate-General to the headquarters of the National Government was lined with troops and police and at 9.30 H.M.S. Suffolk saluted the country, firing 21 guns.

The Chinese gunboat Chu Yu, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Chen, returned the Suffolk's salute. Later in the morning, the Suffolk saluted the flag of Rear Admiral Chen, the Chu Yu returning the salute.

At 4 p.m. on Thursday the Minister embarked on H.M.S. Cockchafer to cross the river to Pukow to entrain for Peking. The Minister received a salute from the Suffolk of 17 guns and a similar one from the Chinese gunboat, the Suffolk also returning the latter salute.

Reference to the King.

Nanking, Dec. 20. Through troop-lined streets, Sir Miles Lampson, accompanied by his staff and escorted by a guard of honour, called at the State Council building this morning and formally presented his credentials to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek.

Sir Miles Lampson was formally presented by Dr. C. T. Wang to the President, who was attended by leading Chinese officials. The British Minister presented his credentials while from H.M.S. Suffolk there boomed out a twenty-one gun salute with Chinese planes circling the city.

Sir Miles Lampson made a speech, in which he said: "Presenting the letters of my predecessor's recall and my appointment, I seize the opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my Sovereign's sincere wishes for the welfare and prosperity of China, and to convey an expression of His Majesty's esteem and regard. It will be my untiring endeavour to maintain and promote the closest and most friendly relations between our two countries."

Marshal Chiang's Reply.

Marshal Chiang Kai-shek replied, "It gives me great pleasure to receive the letters you have presented, and I am most grateful for the assurance of the very friendly sentiments entertained by your Sovereign towards China and myself. I avail myself of this opportunity to request you to transmit to your Sovereign, on behalf of the people of China and myself, sincere wishes for his speedy recovery, and the welfare and prosperity of your country. You having signed the new tariff treaty, I feel all the more confident that our commercial intercourse will be further developed and our friendly relations increasingly strengthened. I assure you that the National Government will extend you every courtesy to enable the friendship of the two countries to be further consolidated."

Other Treaties.

The Sino-Swedish treaty was signed at noon. Nine countries have now signed tariff treaties with China, namely, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United States, of which Belgium, Denmark, Italy and Portugal have given up consular jurisdiction on certain conditions.

The treaty with France is expected to be signed in a day or two; while negotiations with Spain are not expected to present any difficulty.

Japan is now the only Power with whom treaty negotiations are at a standstill. The successful issue to these difficult and lengthy negotiations is regarded as a great triumph for Dr. C. T. Wang, while naturally they will greatly strengthen the prestige of the National Government.—*Reuter.*

DUTCH SPIRIT DUTY REDUCED.

INCREASE WHICH WAS NOT PROFITABLE.

The Hague, Dec. 20. The Second Chamber has adopted a Bill for the reduction of the excise duty on spirits by 40 per cent.

The present duty is 330 florins per 220 gallons of proof spirit. The reduction is due to the tremendous increase in the manufacture and sale of contraband alcohol since the excise duty was doubled in 1920, as a result of which the duty actually yielded less than before it was doubled.—*Reuter.*

BREAD CRISIS IN MOSCOW.

PEOPLE IN PANIC LOOKING FOR FOOD.

OFFICIAL BUNGLING.

Riga, Dec. 20.

The bread crisis has re-appeared in an acute form at Moscow. Last week a decision by the Government to bake less bread occasioned a rumour of shortage and led to panic amongst the population.

Long queues were everywhere in evidence and the frantic people rushed from shop to shop looking for bread.

A conference by the Soviet authorities in Moscow then decided to increase the quantity of bread to be baked.

It is claimed that Moscow has sufficient stocks of food to feed the entire population, but that mismanagement has precipitated a crisis.

The culprits are to be punished.—*Reuter.*

EXPLOSION HAVOC IN LONDON.

(Continued from Page 1.)

It is impossible at the moment to estimate the damage to property.

It was a marvellous fact that apparently nobody was killed, though so many were injured, in the upheaval in High Holborn.

There was a series of explosions as the gas mains went up in rapid sequence, damaging buildings like an earthquake or air raid, shaking the district, and leaving two billowing gas fires. It was followed by an unparalleled traffic hold-up.—*Reuter.*

For hundreds of yards, the roadway between Holborn Restaurant at the junction with Kingsway, and Saint Giles Circus, Tottenham Court Road, was affected, and gas from the broken mains is still on fire.

The cause is unknown, but road repairs had been proceeding in the neighbourhood.—*British Wireless.*

THIEF JUMPS FROM VERANDAH.

FRACTURED WRIST IN THEFT OF CHICKEN.

Describing the theft of a chicken from the verandah of the first floor of No. 52, Un Chau Street, as impudent, Mr. E. W. Hamilton at the Kowloon Magistrate's court this morning sentenced a Chinese to six weeks' hard labour. According to the story related by Inspector Hoare, complainant was awakened at about 3 o'clock on the morning of November 27 by a disturbance among her chickens. Going to the verandah where the fowls were kept, she saw a man jump into the street. Two Indian constables who were on patrol immediately seized the man, the chicken being found in the road.

Defendant, in jumping, fractured his wrist and was sent to hospital where he was confined until Wednesday.

In answer to the charge, defendant said he was merely passing the house when the chicken either fell or was thrown into the street.

His Worship, after hearing the evidence, sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour.

ALLEGED FORGED NOTES.

SIKH CHARGED TO-DAY WITH POSSESSION.

Before Major C. Willson this morning, a Sikh, named Kam Singh, was charged with possession of 89 forged \$10 notes of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and also with possession of two rounds of revolver ammunition.

Inspector Lane, who prosecuted, indicated that he would like a week's remand.

In reply to the Magistrate, the Inspector stated that the case would be dealt with summarily.

It is learned that Kam Singh has been many years in Hongkong, and that he was arrested on Wednesday in the Tai Law Tin Hotel.

BACK IN TEN DAYS.

BANISHED WOMAN SENT TO GAOL.

An elderly Chinese woman who was banished from the Colony on December 11, 1928, was charged before Mr. E. W. Hamilton at the Kowloon Magistrate's court this morning with disobeying the order. Admitting the offence, the woman was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

Defendant said she returned to take possession of a truck which was at the office of the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs.

THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

BIG GATHERING TO BE HELD AT NANKING SOON.

NUMEROUS PROBLEMS.

Nanking, Dec. 20.

It is reported that the Disarmament Conference will be opened here in about a week's time, and, according to telegrams received, many of the Nationalist Generals are on their way to the capital, these including General Feng Chen-wu, General Chan Tu-yuen, General Wu Chung-sheng, and General Li Chung-yeu.

It is understood that the first preliminary session of the Conference will take place on Boxing Day, and a Hankow message says that General Li Chung-yeu will probably leave Hankow on Sunday for Nanking to participate in this session.

The agenda of the Disarmament Conference, worked out by General Ho Ying-ching and Mr. T. V. Soong and other leaders, is as follows:

(1) The consolidation of the Nationalist forces, fixing an exact number of units in various armies.

(2) Allocation of garrison headquarters in the Provinces.

(3) Establishment of a permanent plan of military expenditure.

(4) To decide on the total number of officers and units to be demobilised.

(5) General recruitment of the new Army.

(6) Appointment of officials after disarmament.

(7) Other problems pertaining to the re-organisation of the Navy and Aerial Force.

(8) Formation of employment headquarters for the benefit of disbanded soldiers.

(9) Other financial questions.

Hankow's Activities.

It is understood that the Hankow leaders are paying much attention to this Conference. General Li Chung-yeu some time ago sent his two chief subordinates, General Hu Chung-tu and General Ho Chien, to Peking to confer with General Pei Chung-hsi, the leader of the Hupei and Hunan Army.

It appears that General Li desires to secure the opinion of his colleague in Peking before deciding what steps to take at the coming conference. It is reported that General Hu Chung-tu and General Ho Chien left Peking last night for Hankow.

Mr. Chang Ting-fan, it is reported, has intimated that he will not return to his work at the Shanghai Municipality, while other reports say that he has secretly left Shanghai for Peking to assume his new post in the Army of General Pei Chung-hsi, as a Commander of a new Hunan Division.

Mukden, it is said, has also received an invitation to participate in the conference and the young leader of the Manchurian Government, General Huoh-hsiang, has decided to send his Chief of Staff, General Yang Yu-ting, to represent the Three Eastern Provinces.

DEATH OF POPULAR DRAMATIST.

AUTHOR OF "PEG O' MY HEART."

New York, Dec. 20. The death is announced of the well-known dramatist, Mr. Hartley Manners.—*Reuter's American Service.*

[The late Mr. Hartley Manners was born in London in 1870 and was educated under private tutors. From 1898 to 1905, he was an actor, making his first appearance at the Bijou Theatre, Melbourne. Since 1902, he has lived in the United States. He married in 1912 Miss Laurette Taylor, the well-known American actress. He was the author of many plays, including "Peg O' My Heart," in which his wife starred for many years with great success.]

MORE LOCAL WILLS.

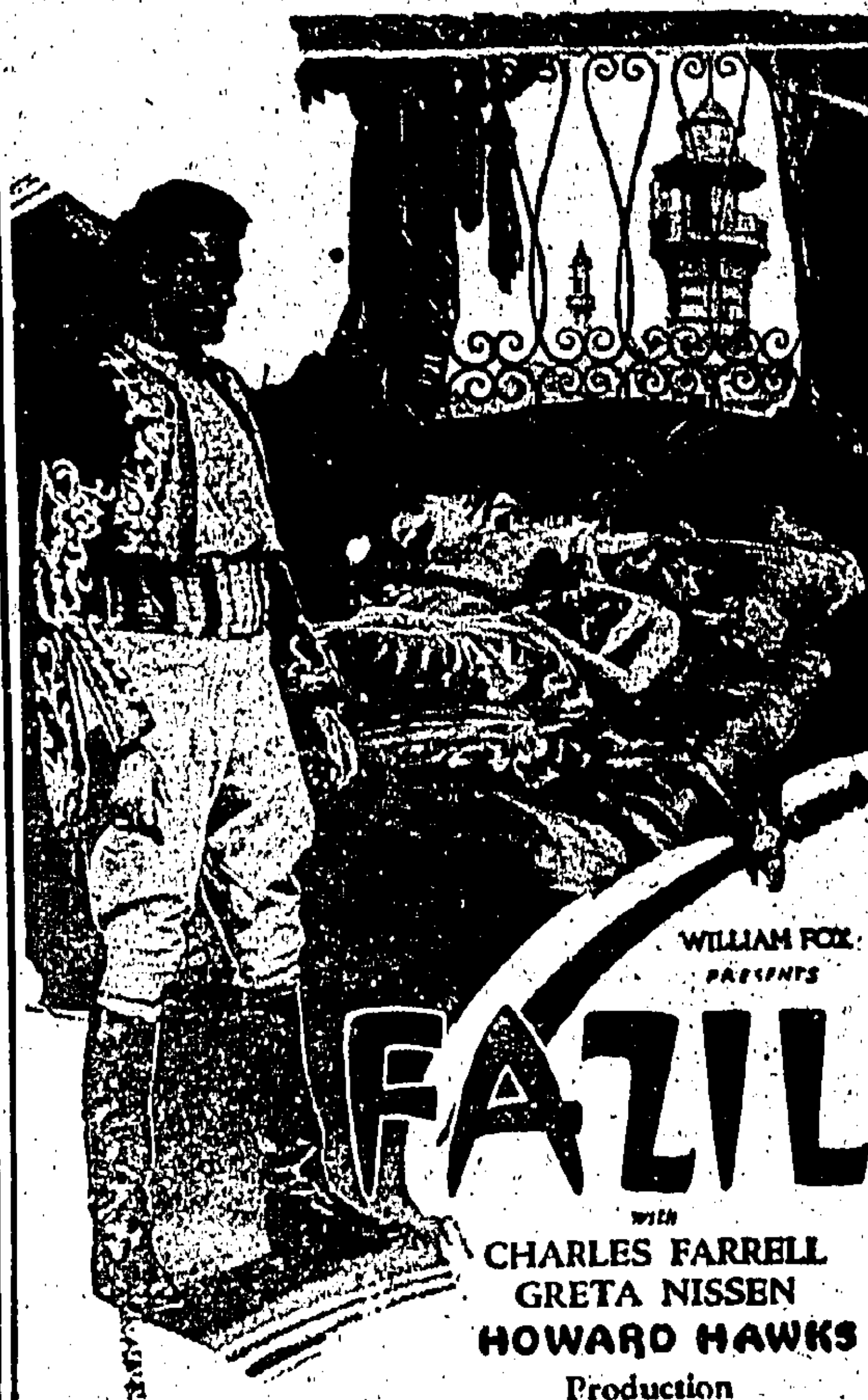
ESTATES OF TWO CHINESE.

Hongkong estate worth \$78,300 was left by Jan See-chin, otherwise known as See Chin, retired farmer, who died at No. 5, Minden Avenue, Kowloon, on or about April 25, this year. He was formerly of Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Probate of the will has been granted to the widow, Maud Jan See-chin, of No. 11, Hankow Road, Kowloon, to whom everything is bequeathed.

Letters of administration in respect of the estate of Chan Ho-shi, alias Ho Wei-fong, widow, who died intestate at No. 38, Pau Chung Street, To Ka Wan, Kowloon City, on March 21, this year, have been granted to her son, Chan Ho-chung, of the same address. Local estate amounts to \$20,600.

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